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Issue No 108
Available from Wednesday,
October 7 2009

THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

The Biggest and Best Pantomime Adventure!

Ade Edmondson
as Captain Hook

Dave Lee
as Tinkerbell

Ben Roddy
as Smee

PETER PAN

Original Book - J.M. Barrie, Adaptation - Paul Hendy
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KENT ON SUNDAY

Peter Pan at Marlowe Theatre Arena

SNAP TO IT:
Ade Edmondson
will be playing
Captain Hook
in his first-ever
pantomime



SHOW MUST GO ON: Marlowe's Mark Everett

THE Marlowe, like most regional theatres, regards the annual pantomime as the most important show in the year. It's not hard to see why.

The panto has for some time been the highest-attended show of all those the Marlowe puts on each year.

For example, more than 81,000 tickets were sold for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs last winter. This was 30 per cent of the 270,000 tickets sold throughout that year, and a record-breaker.

Similarly, the panto makes a huge contribution to the theatre's income and overall financial health. Snow White sold more than £1.1million of tickets. The income the Marlowe earned from it was some 43 per cent of the total from all the other shows.

And all this over just eight weeks out of the 52!

For me, however, it's not just about money and 'bums on seats', vital though those factors are for any theatre. I believe the annual panto is important for other reasons.

Firstly, it is a genuinely accessible form of entertainment that all ages and sorts of people can enjoy. Secondly, panto offers a great opportunity for young people to experience the magic of live theatre for the first time.

Panto gives them everything: drama, comedy, music, dance, stage tricks and magic.

Therefore it was important to keep the Marlowe pantomime going over the two-year period when there isn't a Marlowe Theatre. The only question left was where to do it?

Fabulous

The idea of the Marlowe Theatre Arena came from visiting the pantomime put on by the Bury St Edmunds Theatre Royal when it was closed for refurbishment.

They used a large tent in the grounds of a local country house and kept their audiences coming over the two years of the theatre's closure. I thought we could do the same in Canterbury and, fortunately, the closure of the Marlowe in early 2009, coincided with the council deciding to move the coach park from Kingsmead, thus freeing up a central site with good access and a hard standing for the temporary venue.

Having secured the site, the rest is business as normal. Our good friends Paul Hendy and Emily Wood at Evolution Productions will produce what I am sure will be a fabulous production of Peter Pan.

This will take place in a modern arena structure that will be heated, have comfortable seating, toilets (more than the old Marlowe) and good facilities for drinks and sweets. The rest is just a matter of selling the tickets.

So, although there is no Marlowe Theatre, panto will nevertheless remain live and well in Canterbury.

By Marlowe Theatre Director Mark Everett

A 'Jack of all Ades'

AS a "Jack of all trades" (his own words), Ade Edmondson's career has been long and diverse, but Peter Pan is his first-ever pantomime role.

The 52-year-old is probably best-known for his roles in legendary TV sitcoms such as The Young Ones, Bottom and Filthy Rich and Catflap, but he is also a stand-up comedian, author (of a novel and scripts), West End performer, music video director, chart-topper and soap opera star.

Ade's most recent TV appearance was earlier this year when he was runner-up in the ITV cookery reality show Hell's Kitchen. He has since spent most of his time on the road with his folk/punk band The Bad Shepherds and is touring until just a couple of weeks before panto rehearsals begin in mid-November.

But how did Ade ever get to be in panto in the first place?

He said: "My agent sent me an email saying he was sure the answer would be 'no'. I've taken my kids to see many a rubbish panto and so many of them just get a soap star and make them do pop songs with new lyrics about Cinderella. But I asked to see a script of a previous one and was impressed with what Emily and Paul were trying to do. I went to meet them – she got so excited when she told

me they'd got a new crocodile – and this one could eat you. I thought, I want to do that, I wanted to be eaten by the new crocodile.

"In the Young Ones and Bottom there was always this childish excitement about theatrical stuff. In the Bottom tours we used to have loads of big props – like being chased around the stage by a wild boar on some tracks.

"I love the Victorian-like reliance on mechanics. I love the idea of a revolving Neverland Island. It all appeals to me. It's just something I wanted to do."

Ade was also won over by the promise that he could write much of his character's script. And there was an added attraction. "Peter Pan is a cracking story and Captain Hook is a fantastic character. I'm looking forward to stamping myself on the role," he said.

Paul is excited at the prospect of working with Ade.

He said: "He is a comedy icon, a talented performer and an extremely funny man.

"Over the years, the Marlowe panto has built a reputation as being one of the best in the country; with Ade on board, I think this will be our funniest ever. Who'd have thought that Vyvyan from the Young Ones would end up doing the Ghost Gag routine?"

AYE AYE CAPN':
Ben Roddy is Smee in
this year's production
of Peter Pan



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MONEY MATTERS

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CASH CRISIS ROBS TOWN OF £13M CLINIC

IT WAS hailed as the future of healthcare for our growing town's needs, but plans for a new health centre have hit a brick wall due to lack of funds.

Last week, officials at the Eastern and Coastal Primary Care Trust predicted the outlook for the £13 million project at the site of the old hospital in King's Avenue was bright.

After a positive response from a public consultation, they were hoping to start building work next year.

But the project now looks like one of

■ BY ED HILL

the first victims of a tighter Government funding programme for health.

The project board for the community health centre says it does not represent value for money.

Amanda Harrison, the director of strategic development, said: "The majority of the funding for the new building came from money that was ring-fenced by the Department of Health, which requires us to rigorously test every aspect of the full business case before proceeding."

"The development has now been shown not to represent value for money, which is particularly important in this financial climate."

The trust says it will try to provide more healthcare through existing outlets such as doctors' surgeries, although it is still pressing ahead with planning permission for the health centre.

However, money has already been spent by the trust on promoting the idea of using the old hospital as a community health centre.

The project was also going to be funded by selling off part of the site for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



DANIEL'S TV X-IT

Unlucky X Factor hopeful Daniel Pearce has vowed never to give up his quest to become a solo star, despite failing at the final hurdle to reach the live shows of the ITV1 talent contest.

The former Norton Knatchbull schoolboy, who grew up in Brabourne Lees, reached the last 24. But after jetting out to starmaker Simon Cowell's luxury Los Angeles pad, Daniel broke down in tears when told he was out of the competition. Daniel, 31, who lives in Bucks with his wife Charlotte and two young sons, told Yourashford: "Music is my life. It's the choice I made as an 18-year-old. I know how difficult this industry is to break. I've had some bad experiences but they are spurring me on."

Daniel, pictured above with Charlotte, is no stranger to reality TV. In 2002 he won a place in the boy band One True Voice in Popstars: The Rivals. He also paid tribute to his former music teacher, John Hall. "He sowed the seed of music in my mind," he said. Mr Hall is now head of music at the Knatchbull in Hythe Road.

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RESTING PLACE: Section of Bybrook Cemetery was set aside for Gurkhas and their families



Couple deny racism at Gurkha cemetery

■ BY NICK AMES

A COUPLE who demanded the closure of Britain's first Gurkha cemetery say they are not racist – they just want everyone treated the same.

Peter and Linda Nye sent a petition with 91 signatures to Ashford council objecting that part of Bybrook Cemetery had been put aside exclusively for Gurkhas and their relatives.

Mr Nye said: "I do not have a problem with Gurkhas. But no-one else has a sign so why do they have to have one?"

"When you come into the cemetery the sign is the first thing that you see. But the burial site is not for Gurkhas – it's for the people of Ashford. It's a cemetery in Bybrook where local people are buried, including members of my family."

Mrs Nye, 63, said: "We object to the fact we cannot be buried in their part of the cemetery. We want to be buried alongside our loved ones when we die. But if there is no room that cannot happen. When I asked if we could be buried in the Gurkha part I was told no. That is not fair. I am not a racist but this is wrong."

The section of the cemetery was set aside after a request was made to Ashford council from the Gurkha community. Many Gurkha families have settled in the town after serving with the Army at in Folkestone.

Gurkha tradition dictates that all their dead be buried together in the same plot, so the cemetery was opened after they won the right to live in the UK.

Ashford council explained designating part of this cemetery for different groups is not an unusual thing to do. It includes areas for Church of England, Roman Catholic and Muslim burials as well as other faith groups. The council says it will signpost them as well if requested.

A council spokesman said: "People can be reassured that there are still over 700 available spaces in Bybrook Cemetery expected to last at least another ten years. This is in addition to those plots already purchased but not yet occupied."

Consulted

"The Council also has cemeteries in Willesborough and Tenterden as well as Bybrook, all with a finite capacity, which is why we are looking to provide new cemetery facilities in the borough within the next ten years."

Mr Nye argues that local people were not consulted about the decision.

He said: "It's the council I have a problem with. We are supposed to live in a democracy, yet this decision to set aside a part of the cemetery and put up that sign was reached by the executive with no consultation with anyone."

His wife added: "I collected the petition from people in the cemetery and town centre. I had a lot of support. I understand this is a delicate issue and the Gurkhas have a lot of support. But we are just ordinary people who want their views to be heard."

Gurkha Gomba Sherpa, chairman of the Sagarmatha Gurkha Community in the town said: "We put all our dead bodies in the same place, that's why we requested the cemetery section alongside the other area and it doesn't harm anyone else putting the sign there."

yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Search for thugs over chemical attack on cat

POLICE are investigating an incident in which a pet cat was badly injured by a chemical spray.

Whiskey, 12, suffered damage to his stomach and inside of his rear legs. The vet treating the cat said this would indicate the cat did not walk through a spilt chemical, as he would also have it on his front paws and legs.

A second cat, Soda, was not injured, but found with a large elastic band around her middle.

The incident happened in Forge Meads, Whithersham between September 20-22.

Call police on 01303 289180 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

NHS walks to highlight mental health benefits

GET Moving Week campaigners are calling on everyone to do some exercise this month to help boost mood and tackle mental health stigma.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's Health Promotion and East Kent Health Walks have organised a number of events as part of the campaign.

The walks are open to everyone. The Ashford walk will be held at the Singleton Environment Centre, on Friday, October 9, at 10am.

The walks will last one hour and will be an easy pace through the towns.

For further details please contact Sara.Moreland@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk or call 01304 222327.

Tank set for museum not the scrapyard

LAST week's we featured a picture of an old tank by the side of the road near Mersham.

We asked for more information about the old machine and can now shed some light on what it was doing there.

Mr Kerry Cheese from Great Chart said: "The tank in Yourashford paper is a Stuart M3A1 1942 brought in from Brazil as a batch of 16 tanks, and got running and driving by us here at RR Motor Services Ltd."

The company specialises in selling and hiring old military vehicles and also supplies them to the film industry.

Mr Cheese added: "The tank is not going to the scrap yard, it is being delivered to Bovington Tank Museum."

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Pollution ruining the Stour, warns expert

■ BY ED HILL

A SURVEY carried out by the Environment Agency has revealed that the River Stour is one of the worst polluted in the country.

Sewage pumped into the river at Ashford is to blame according to environmental experts.

Dr Geoff Meaden, formerly principal lecturer in Bio-Geography at Canterbury Christ Church University, said: "East Kent is the driest part of the country, and this means the river frequently has very low flow rates.

"But the amount of sewage going in at the Ashford sewage plant in Bybrook remains the same, so in periods of low flow there is an enormous amount of sewage going into the river.

"All the solids have been taken out but it is very difficult to filter out all the nutrients and chemicals. It is highly enriched water going back into the river."

Dr Meaden, who is also a Green Party candidate, said all the new houses being built in the Ashford area meant demands on the river were increasing all the time.

He said: "I predict that in about 25 years there will not be any flow at all in the river at some points during the summer. The river can't cope with the demands that are made on it."

The campaigner said a particular problem was oestrogen that gets washed into the river. Tests carried out on caged trout show that the fish closer to the Bybrook sewage works become neutered by the hormone which has repercussions for other wildlife.



POLLUTED: Environment Agency survey says sewage and fertiliser washed into the Stour from farmland is to blame for its current state

The river is also badly affected by fertiliser being washed into it from nearby agricultural land and water being extracted for irrigation.

Dr Meaden said: "The Environment Agency does have enough powers to revoke the licences that farmers have to take water out of the river. "That law needs to be changed. They have also got to get the sewage plants to do better filtering of water so the quality going back is better."

The Government is committed to European standards of making water quality in 95 per

cent of rivers 'good' or 'very good' by 2015.

But the Environment Agency said despite the Stour's high levels of pollution compared to other rivers, water quality in rivers generally has been improving for the last 19 years.

Dr Paul Leinster, the agency's chief executive, said: "Our strategy will tackle the pollution and obstructions that prevent wildlife returning to some areas and we will working with farmers, water companies and groups such as the RSPB to get the best deal for our environment."



CRACKDOWN: Dispersal Order zone at Court Wurtin

Dispersal Order to stop rowdy youths

POLICE and the council have joined forces to try and clamp down on anti-social behaviour in the Court Wurtin development of homes.

To target youths who hang around in the evenings just off Beaver Lane in South Ashford, they have imposed what is known as a Dispersal Order.

The laws were created by the government in 2003 as part of its policy to clamp down on nuisance behaviour.

Under section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act, if a group of two or more people cause or are believed to be causing intimidation, harassment, alarm or distress in the designated area they can be dispersed by a police officer or PCSO.

The order has been agreed by South Kent Area Superintendent, Mark Nottage and Ashford council chief executive, John Burnett.

It will give officers the power to disperse groups or youths in Court Wurtin, including the flats communal area, the shops below, the car park area to the flats and shops, Beaver Lane outside the flats, the entrance to Langholme Road and grassed areas either side and extending 50 metres from the entrance and including nearby Beaver Court.

The order will run from the hours of 6pm to 11.59pm until January 9 next year.

Doubts over centre being an attraction

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE housing, but developers are now less keen to take on projects.

The recommendation came as a disappointment for those promoting the town's growth.

Managing director of Ashford's Future, Judith Armit, said: "It's important that health services meet the needs of our growing population.

"But value for money is also important and we will use the delay to reappraise the best approach to health provision."

One resident said she had doubts about the attraction of the centre for local people.

Consultations

Pat Boorman, a member of the Kennington Forum, said: "There are a lot of local surgeries that do this kind of thing, along with the William Harvey Hospital.

"They spent all this money on these reports and consultations, but they still hadn't worked out how people were going to get to it.

"A lot of young mothers would rather go to their local surgery where they know and trust people they see all the time."

• Email yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk

Rail company call for more investment to cope with expansion

A REPORT from Network Rail has said that more investment will be needed at the International Station to cope with the town's expansion.

The not-for-profit company, which owns and operates the rails, signals and tunnels of the rail system, has highlighted that Ashford's strategic role as an increasingly-important rail hub and says it is likely to require substantial new investment to cater for more passengers using the station's domestic and international rail services.

It published its findings in its Draft Kent Route Utilisation Strategy.

The 190-page document analyses current and future trends and makes recommendations about how the railway in Kent and East Sussex can be improved and expanded over the next ten years. Passenger numbers are expected to grow by 32 per cent by 2019.

It has suggested that the station will need extra platform capacity and says platforms used exclusively by the Eurostar trains should also be turned over to domestic trains.

An extract from the report says: "It

would be sensible for domestic services to use the international platforms when these are currently only used by five Eurostar trains a day in each direction."

Network Rail hopes to publish its final Route Utilisation Strategy for Kent by early 2010, when it will become clearer which measures are likely to be taken to improve capacity in Ashford and elsewhere in Kent.

Judith Armit, managing director of Ashford's Future, said: "The report highlights Ashford's strategic role as a transport hub.

"We welcome the recommendations into investigating extending our already excellent connections to Gatwick and the south coast."

Ashford International is halfway through a six-month refurbishment project costing £2.4 million, with £1.2m provided by the National Stations Improvement Programme and £1.2m given by Ashford's Future from central government growth area funding.

Works for the first phase at the domestic rail entrance are nearly complete with the second phase due to start next spring.

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yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF



Jessica's princely reward

A GIRL from Ashford who has struggled against the affects of strokes has met Prince Harry at an awards ceremony.

Jessica Redfearn, 11, from central Ashford was picking up her award for bravery at the WellChild event held at the Park Lane Hotel in London last week.

Prince Harry told the winners: "Most of us tonight have not, thank goodness, had to confront the enormous challenges faced by you. But what you give to all of us, through your supreme example, is a very simple thing – inspiration."

Prior to having a stroke in March 2008, Jessica was a normal, healthy, nine-year-old. Immediately after the stroke she was unable to talk, walk or control the right side of her body and had to work hard at physiotherapy and exercise to relearn these skills and return to school. She is now on medication after suffering a second stroke.

Jessica's mother Tarnia nominated her daughter because she copes so well, rarely complaining and often cracking jokes to keep her family going.

Motor cycle clamp down

POLICE have been tackling motorcyclists whose reckless riding has caused complaints in Challock and Chilham on the A251.

A team of motorcycle officers, including one unmarked bike, were deployed to the area on September 27.

Bike Team Sergeant Gary Easton said: "Ten motorcycles and four neighbourhood officers were out and this, combined with the excellent weather, ensured some very good results."

Multiple speed checks at Challock resulted in a number of speeding tickets being handed out.

Correction to name used

LAST week we carried a story about the Eastwell Manor Hotel coffee morning in aid of the charity Macmillan Cancer Support.

We would like to point out we referred to Sue Cook in the article and it should have been Sue Cross.

We apologise for any misunderstanding this may have caused.

Put your questions

When the public are consulted on what they want the police to do, we often hear the phrase "more bobbies on the beat". Do you think this is a realistic request and that it even helps to cut crime?

Lorraine Bryant, Herne Bay

My researchers have carried out extensive work with the people of Kent to enable us to understand their concerns.

It is clear one of the top priorities is around the visibility of those tackling crime, and I believe the solution comes from a mix of roles within both the police and the local authorities. We also use our Neighbourhood Teams of police officers and Community Safety Units to carry out patrols on foot. That means they are able to have direct contact with the public.

Why is Kent Police so keen on neighbourhood task teams?

H Talbot, Ashford

The task teams are an essential part of neighbourhood policing but they also have a special-

As part of our behind the scenes look at the work of Kent Police, our Chief Constable Michael Fuller agreed to answer questions direct from readers through our pages. Here are a selection of your questions and there will be more answers next week. If you have a question email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and we will pass it on and print the answer.

ist role in the tackling of anti-social behaviour.

They deal with local priorities, set by the public. When the teams were first introduced as a trial in some areas of Kent they achieved a dramatic reduction in anti-social behaviour and a significant rise in public confidence. As a result they were then introduced across the entire county.

This has achieved such success the Policing Minister came to Kent to see it in action and asked for a briefing from me to better understand how it could be used by other forces.

What is the policy in terms of responding to incidents of low-level crime (car break-ins etc)? It seems too often friends report incidents only for no action to be taken and rarely even a visit from an officer.

T Nugent, Sittingbourne

We take all reported incidents seriously. These are dealt with on a case-by-case basis and assessed against the level of resources available at the time. We have three criteria when making that decision:

On the road to saving lives

TRAVELLING at speeds in excess of 120mph to emergency call-outs and arresting drunk drivers is an everyday occurrence for Kent's Road Policing Unit, but for our reporter Anna White, a day with our traffic cops proved to be more eventful than she had expected

WHILE spending an eight-hour shift patrolling Kent's motorways and town roads in an unmarked police car, I expected a few motorists to be stopped, but within the space of just six hours on the roads, nine vehicles were stopped for various driving offences, most were fined and there was one arrest.

During the first two hours Sergeant James Derham and PC Geoff Greenwhite fined one girl who was texting while driving at 70mph, a teenager who was talking on the phone while driving, a man for not wearing his seatbelt, and three men for speeding.

Each of the speeding motorists was asked to sit in the police car to see proof of their dangerous speed and to have the chance to explain themselves to the officers.

The conversations between the officers and the drivers are all similar; the driver holds his hands up and admits driving too fast, accepts the fine and then panics about the possibility of losing their job and all the other consequences.



The tone from the officers was friendly but serious as they ask what the need for going too fast was, and they reminded the drivers of the risks they are taking by driving dangerously.

Sgt Derham said: "People are usually receptive when we stop them and they admit what they have done wrong, but you do get the odd one who wants to argue it.

"Sometimes people suggest we should be catching murders and other criminals instead of stopping people without a seatbelt, but our job is to save lives on the road."

To catch the speeding motorists meant hitting high speeds ourselves, but it was when the officers responded to an emergency call to a road collision that PC Greenwhite's high speed

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to our police chief

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- Scheduled calls are for when response time is not critical and the best use of our resources means we can make an appointment.

In the case of vehicle crime, burglary or theft, if the incident falls into the scheduled category then investigators carry out a telephone interview and pass the details to the local Crime and Incident Management Unit, where it is reviewed by trained officers.

If they decide a face-to-face interview will help, or the victim is believed to be vulnerable, an officer will go to speak to them.

Do you feel that the police are respected by most law abiding people at present or has the feeling of trust lessened over the years?

Michael Dean, Folkestone

When Sir Robert Peel founded the police serv-

ice it was on the basis of 'policing by consent'. This is still central to our approach to policing.

Public confidence in us is the key measure of our success. If people are confident that we treat people fairly and with respect, that we know their priorities and we are dealing with them, then we feel we are succeeding.

We feel it is important to monitor people's perceptions of how well we are meeting these demands. The majority of Kent residents, 82 per cent, say the police would treat them with respect if they had to contact them and 93 per cent of people say Kent Police is fair. In addition, 85 per cent of victims are satisfied with the overall service they received from us.

We are also working on being amongst the best in the country for dealing with the issues that matter to people in their area.

We are focused on ensuring we know what matters to people, are dealing with these things and making people aware of the results of these actions.

Public confidence in Kent Police has improved. We are now 18th out of 43 forces for

public confidence, and aim to be in the top ten. I feel this is something we can achieve.

How well equipped is Kent Police to deal with online crime such as cyber bullying and fraud?

Jeremy Holbrook, Canterbury

Our Serious Economic Crime Unit investigates the criminal use of the internet.

These detectives work alongside forensic experts who are able to obtain evidence from computers to show how criminals have used them. There is currently no offence of cyber bullying so prosecutions are brought under existing laws such as the misuse of communications and harassment.

When cases are reported, our Communications Intelligence Unit works to provide the evidence to bring a prosecution.

We also work closely with the finance and communications industries, not only to prosecute those who misuse the internet but also to stop criminal activity and to promote responsible online behaviour.



IMPORTANT TO YOU: Chief Constable Mike Fuller is answering your questions about policing in the county



LAYING DOWN THE LAW: Opposite, Sgt Derham hands out a fine for texting while driving, while above PC Greenwhite speaks to the man pulled over because of a flat tyre, who ended up with a lot more to think about

training really showed. Although the officers checked I was comfortable with speed before I got in the car, when we reached top speeds of about 120mph I was grateful to have a police hat to hide behind.

But within minutes the emergency call was abandoned as another patrol had got there first and PC Greenwhite returned to normal speed... until the next time.

He said: "It's like the TV programme Police, Camera, Action and you just try to get there as quickly as possible. It's what we are trained to do."

Near the end of the 2-10pm shift I had seen more than I had expected, but it was a flat tyre that proved the most eventful stop of all.

Sgt Derham spotted the deflated tyre on a people-carrier-style car, which was heading toward Chatham, and he decided to pull the driver over to let him know. But as a procedure the officers ran a check on the vehicle - which showed the car had no MOT.

While PC Greenwhite checked the car and talked to driver he smelt alcohol, and almost inevitably a breath test proved the driver was over the limit. He was arrested on the spot.

The driver was taken to Medway Police Station, where it took two-hours to take a blood sample at the man's request (at 48mg/100 he was over the legal drink-drive limit of 35mg but if it's under 50 the person can elect to have a blood or urine sample

taken) then process him before he was released on bail.

In this case the man was dropped off at his home and then it was time to head back to the unit's base at Coldharbour, in Aylesford, just outside Maidstone, but not before the officers stopped a male motorcyclist for travelling at more than 100mph, who will now be summoned to court.

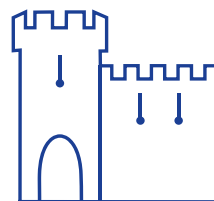
I found it an eye-opener to see how many people risk both their own life and the lives of others on our roads, but to Sgt Derham and PC Greenwhite it was an average shift catching motorists who choose to break the law.

Sgt Derham added: "We don't just stop people for the sake of it, it's because we want to reduce the amount of deaths and accidents that happen on Kent's roads.

"We are the ones who have to tell the families their loved one has been involved in a collision or, even worse, died and that is not a nice thing to do. The message we are really trying to push is to take more care on the roads and save more lives."

The entire Kent Roads Policing Unit establishment is made up of 147 officers with 25 motorcycles and about 22 cars.

• *Police have confirmed that the man who gave a blood sample after he was arrested on suspicion of drink driving is due to appear in court later this month after he returned a positive result.*



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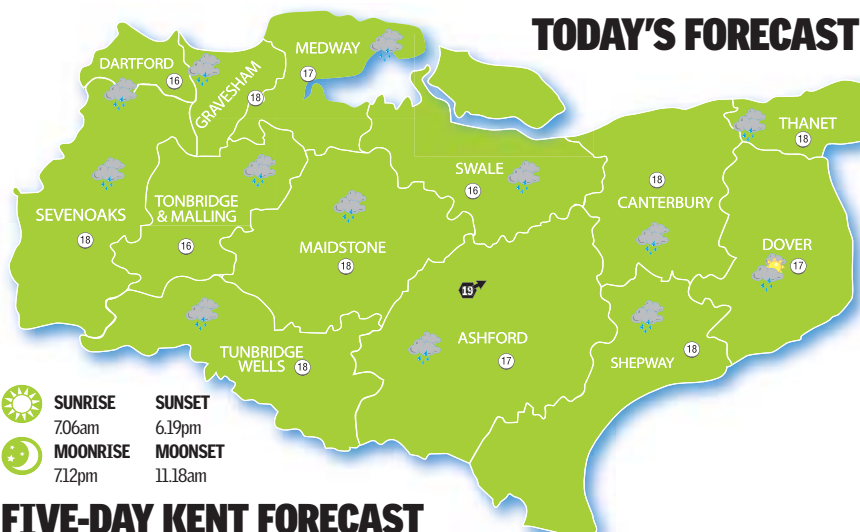
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

| | | | |
|------------|----------|--------|------|
| Chatham | Saturday | 5:24pm | 5.7m |
| | Sunday | 6:25pm | 5.4m |
| Dover | Saturday | 3:29pm | 6.0m |
| | Sunday | 4:45pm | 5.6m |
| Dungeness | Saturday | 3:34pm | 7.3m |
| | Sunday | 4:30pm | 6.8m |
| Ramsgate | Saturday | 3:59pm | 4.6m |
| | Sunday | 5:15pm | 4.3m |
| Sheerness | Saturday | 5:13pm | 5.4m |
| | Sunday | 6:14pm | 5.2m |
| Whitstable | Saturday | 5:13pm | 5.0m |
| | Sunday | 6:15pm | 4.7m |



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

| | | | |
|------------|------|------------|------|
| Amsterdam | 12°C | Madrid | 26°C |
| Athens | 25°C | New York | 20°C |
| Barcelona | 26°C | Paris | 14°C |
| Beijing | 22°C | Rome | 24°C |
| Bombay | 26°C | Sydney | 18°C |
| Cape Town | 18°C | Tenerife | 25°C |
| Cardiff | 13°C | Tokyo | 20°C |
| Gibraltar | 23°C | Vancouver | 15°C |
| Hong Kong | 31°C | Warsaw | 13°C |
| Las Palmas | 26°C | Wellington | 10°C |

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

| | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Ashford | 20°C | 18°C | 16°C | 16°C | 17°C | Gravesend | 20°C | 19°C | 16°C | 16°C | 18°C |
| Canterbury | 20°C | 18°C | 15°C | 16°C | 16°C | Maidstone | 20°C | 18°C | 16°C | 16°C | 17°C |
| Chatham | 20°C | 19°C | 16°C | 16°C | 18°C | Ramsgate | 20°C | 18°C | 15°C | 16°C | 16°C |
| Dartford | 20°C | 19°C | 16°C | 16°C | 18°C | Rochester | 20°C | 19°C | 16°C | 16°C | 18°C |
| Dover | 18°C | 17°C | 15°C | 14°C | 16°C | Sevenoaks | 18°C | 17°C | 14°C | 15°C | 16°C |
| Faversham | 20°C | 19°C | 16°C | 16°C | 18°C | Sittingbourne | 20°C | 19°C | 16°C | 16°C | 18°C |
| Folkestone | 18°C | 17°C | 15°C | 14°C | 16°C | Tonbridge | 18°C | 18°C | 15°C | 15°C | 16°C |
| Gillingham | 20°C | 19°C | 16°C | 16°C | 18°C | Tun Wells | 18°C | 18°C | 15°C | 15°C | 16°C |

Women charged with benefit fraud appear in court

TWO cases of benefit fraud totalling more than £24,000 have been heard at Ashford magistrates' court.

Two women, both from Kennington, pleaded guilty to the charges.

Hazel Cunningham, of Bloomsbury Way, claimed benefits totalling £21,816.68 for a period of three-and-a-half years from 2005 to 2008, despite being back at work.

She claimed housing and incapacity benefit as well as Council Tax benefit. Magistrates sentenced her to 120 days in prison, suspended for 12 months, and ordered her to complete 150 hours of unpaid work and pay costs of £100.

Lisa Oakley, of Bybrook Road, falsified letters and receipts for childcare expenses, a fact which came to light when the council contacted the childcare provider.

False statements

She was charged with dishonestly providing false documents and making false statements in relation to claims for Housing and Council Tax Benefit that totalled £2,384.63.

She was ordered to pay £300 costs and given a 12 month community order with supervision, meaning that she will have to attend meetings and adhere to requirements set out in a probation period.

Councillor Paul Bartlett, deputy leader of Ashford Borough Council said: "These cases highlight just how seriously the council treats benefit fraud."

"If you are taking money out of the system by means of deception, you are taking it away from the taxpayer as well as those who need it the most, and that is what makes crimes like these so deplorable."

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Community Safety

yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

CHRIS HOGBEN



Q Had you always wanted to work in the police force?

A I have to be honest and say no, it wasn't my first choice. I came into policing after failing the three-day interview for a flying commission with the RAF. Before I had a chance to reapply or consider other military options I was accepted by the police and have never looked back. Throughout my teenage years I had no great thoughts as to a career but was interested in the military.

Q What were your main reasons for joining?

A The idea of bringing criminals to book certainly appealed, as did the idea of making a difference on behalf of the community. I would also add that in 1984, as an 18-year-old, police pay and conditions were pretty good and I would be lying if I said that wasn't appealing!

Q Where did you first start out policing?

A My first station was Ramsgate where I started as a newly qualified Police Constable in January 1985.

Q How different is your job now to your earlier days in the force?

A Obviously as a young PC I worked on the frontline and really enjoyed dealing with a range of criminal offences and putting a

robust policing style into practice. Almost all of my service has been at area level, with the role becoming more managerial as I have risen through the ranks. The basic philosophy of policing has not changed and can be summarised by our current motto, which is: Protecting and serving the people of Kent, and that is what we remain committed to doing.

Q What is the most challenging thing about your job?

A Clearly the delivery of improving performance is always a challenge, but we are enjoying real success at the present time. The biggest challenge for me probably revolves around continuing to improve the service we provide to the various communities across south Kent in the face of a rapidly changing economic climate.

Q What are the main issues dealt with by police in the south Kent area?

A Which ever area you go to in Kent, you will find most of the issues are very similar. When I talk to members of the community, their main concerns centre around low-level anti-social behaviour and quality of life issues. Things like burglary and car crime have been reduced to such levels that people seem to worry about them less. So, whilst continuing to reduce crime in terms of headline figures is important, dealing with anti-social behaviour is one of our biggest priorities at present.

Q Do you think the launch of the safer seasons campaigns have helped deal with problems in the area?

A I think it is really helpful for our officers to be focussed on particular issues and to ensure, through a high profile marketing campaign, that the public know we are focusing on what is important to them. In recent campaigns we have seen significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour, which would suggest they are having a positive effect.

Q How safe is south Kent compared to the rest of the county?

A It is a safe place for people to live and work. Whilst it is difficult to make straight comparisons between policing areas across the county, anyone committing a violent crime is more likely to be brought to justice in south Kent, than anywhere else in the county. We saw violent crime go down last year and continue to see significant reductions this year.

Q What is the most exciting case you have worked on in your job?

A The most interesting case relates to a robbery in which mobile phones were stolen at Dover, with a street value of £7 million. The investigation included seven days when my detective sergeant and I worked in Singapore, which was a great experience. It was the most complex, difficult and lengthy investigations that I have ever been involved with and led to two people receiving lengthy jail sentences.

The Chief Superintenden and South Kent Area Commander (including Ashford) for Kent Police talks to **MARIJKE COX** about the issues faced by police and how his job has changed since his early days

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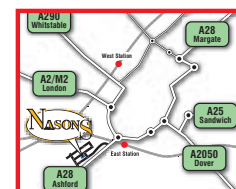
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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Residents dive in to free swim sessions

BY ED HILL

THE council says that its scheme to give residents free swimming sessions has proved a success.

The Active Swim programme was introduced three months ago as the council's alternative to the Government free swimming policy for under 16s and the over 60s.

It rejected the policy because it felt the broad scheme would cost too much money.

Instead the council decided to go for a more targeted option with funding coming from the local NHS primary care trust.

Vouchers for free swims and lessons at the Stour Centre and Tenterden Leisure Centre swimming pools, were distributed to older and disabled people, children and young adults registered with a children's centre, vulnerable families, mental health patients, and young homeless people.

More than 100 people took part in the first three months with 37 per cent of those users being registered disabled. There were also 130 swimming lessons for children and adults.

Sports operations development officer Simon Harris said: "This has been a real team effort with a number of key partners including the leisure trusts and social services to make this work so successfully."

The council says they are now looking into other ways in which it can work with the Eastern and Coastal Primary Care Trust to promote sporting activities around the borough.

The PCT has extended its funding to £273,750 for free swimming and other physi-



SUCCESS: More than 100 people took part in the free swimming sessions for the disabled, over 60s and children at the Stour Centre (pictured) and Tenterden Leisure Centre sparking funding for further activities in the borough

cal activities up to March 2011.

The other plans include converting the River Room at the Stour Centre into a dance studio which is hoped will be more appealing to young women who want to exercise.

It is also hoped the scheme can be extended to ethnic minorities, primary schools, and areas of deprivation as well as over 60s who have been referred by their GP.

Portfolio holder for culture Cllr Gerry Clarkson said: "We often talk, as a council, about making the most of our partnership projects, and this is an example of partnership working at its best and to the benefit of the people of the borough."

"I would like to praise the hard work of the lead officers of this project in bringing this scheme forward so successfully."



HOSPITAL HELP: GPs have been at William Harvey

GP pilot scheme relieves pressure on A&E department

THE William Harvey Hospital has been running a pilot scheme to relieve pressure on its accident and emergency department.

GPs have joined A and E staff to help assess, treat and discharge patients who could have visited their surgery.

The idea is to treat patients with minor ailments or conditions more quickly and free-up triage teams to deal with real emergencies.

Zoe Fright, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's senior lead commissioner for urgent care, said: "This model of care is being tested nationally in hospitals across the country as a means of directing patients to the most appropriate treatment."

"It not only helps to educate patients about not needing to come to accident and emergency for certain conditions but it helps to reduce the time they wait to be seen."

Admissions to accident and emergency services are estimated to have gone up nationally by 30 per cent in the last five years, many of them with less serious problems since out of hours GP services were reduced. The trust says it now needs more GPs to join the scheme.

Ms Fright added: "We have been testing these models of care as pilots to inform the longer term plans for these services. When we ran the pilot in Ashford around 50 per cent of people were successfully treated by a GP and did not need to see the triage team. The doctors also registered those patients who did not have a GP."

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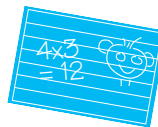
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BREAK TIME

Youngster fired up by safety message

KENT Fire and Rescue Service education officers have presented a prize to the lucky winner of their Kent County Show fire safety competition.

The winner was Izaak Cobb, 10, from the Lady Joanna Thornhill Primary School in Wye. He received his prize from education officer Phil Reeves, as pictured.



The education team ran the competition for primary school pupils at the County Show in July. The questions covered safety messages for home, personal safety, and around the school.

Kent Fire and Rescue uses major events to evaluate how well their fire safety messages are getting through to children at school.

The education team also visit every secondary school in Kent each year giving interactive presentations to years eight, ten and 11 on anti-social behaviour, arson and car passenger safety.

Take a look around

ASHFORD School will be holding an open day for senior and sixth form students on Saturday, October 10.

The independent school on East Hill says it produces well-rounded, confident individuals through adventurous learning, and 80 per cent of students achieve a place at their university of choice.

The event starts at 10am and runs until 1pm. For more information go to www.ashfordschool.co.uk



OVERCOMING PROBLEMS: Chris Mordue of the Ark Foundation shares his experiences and advice with the hospitality students at the Towers School

Talk caters for dangers of drugs and addiction

■ BY ED HILL

HOSPITALITY students at the Towers School were recently given a talk about the dangers of drug abuse in the industry.

The event was organized by the Ark Foundation, which is part of the charity Hospitality Action.

The group works with the industry to educate individuals about the dangers of prolonged use of drugs – both legal and illegal – and the consequences of addiction.

The special guest speaker was Chris Mordue, who was one of the original apprentices at Jamie Oliver's 15 restaurant.

His talk centred on the lives of people in the hospitality and catering industry, where the

long hours, fierce competition and intense pressure can lead to problems with drugs and alcohol developing.

Mr Mordue spoke about his own personal battle with drink and drug addiction, which started at the age of 12.

When he was taken on at Jamie Oliver's restaurant he still had a serious drug abuse problem. He had worked in hospitality for years in an industry that he says often turned a blind eye to what can go on.

As a condition of keeping his job at 15, he was asked to attend a special seminar by Ark to help overcome his problems and he now gives seminars on the subject himself.

Mr Mordue was keen not to preach at the students, he spoke more about the choices he'd made in his life, and crucially the underlying reasons for making those decisions.

His insecurities and the worries that all teenagers feel at times, started him off on a path that led to a full blown addiction to drink and drugs.

Jessica Dexter, a student at The Towers Sixth Form College said: "The talk was very powerful, and Chris really connected with us all."

"The key is to always think about the consequences of your actions, talk about your problems and remember what you have got and how alcohol and drugs can take it away."

For more about the Ark Foundation see www.hospitalityaction.org.uk.

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Centre to take education out of classroom

■ BY CHRIS BRITCHER

THERE is something a little eerie about Grosvenor Hall.

Sited behind a sprawling cemetery, the 50-acre site in Ashford is bordered to the east by housing, the south by dead bodies, and the west by a major cinema complex.

Back in the 1930s it was unveiled as a police training college, and grew into a major site with all the facilities, buildings and accommodation you would expect to breed the next wave of law enforcers.

But three years ago it was closed by the Home Office, anything of value was ripped out, and it was put on the market.

Enter Kingswood – a residential educational activity centre company, keen to establish a base in the county.

It looked at the abandoned swimming pool, the accommodation blocks, the massive gym and weed-festooned parade ground and saw opportunity.

It snapped up the site and unveiled plans to transform it into what it dubbed “the top educational activity centre in Europe”.

It is now spending £8.8m on transforming the venue. There will be 18 classrooms, seven IT labs, cinemas, quad-bike courses, climbing walls, zip lines, en-suite bedrooms, a swimming pool, football pitches, disco, media centre and even a hoped for watersports park.

In the first year it will boast a capacity of 375 children at a time – all housed separately to other schools and without mixing boys and girls. By year two the capacity will be 650.

Paul Gilbert is chief executive officer of Kingswood’s parent company, the Education Travel Group.

He said: “Rather than just an activity centre we look to be educationally rich. We provide the modules to run programmes that link back to what the schools are doing.

“We take learning outside the classroom. The youngsters will be actively encouraged to push themselves out of their comfort zone.

The funding, aside from some grants, is pri-



LAUNCH: CEO Paul Gilbert with Dean Saunders, director of the Kingswood centre in Ashford, above

marily through parents paying for children to attend. Costs will range from £49 a head for weekend stays up to £300 for a week.

The main age group targeted by the college will be Years 5, 6 and 7.

There will also be the occasional opportunity for local people to use the facilities.

Mr Gilbert added: “It is important to us to play a role in the community.”



BREATHE EASY: MP Damian Green cuts a cake watched by Dr Adrian Morris, Sheila Russell, and Dr Prathibha

Group to support lung disease patients

A GROUP has been launched to help sufferers from lung diseases. Breathe Easy Ashford and Tenterden (BEAT) began meeting informally last year.

In the UK one in seven people are affected by some form of respiratory disease, such as asthma, emphysema, or bronchitis.

The group, which meets at the Albion pub in Willesborough, has now been officially recognised by the Breathe Easy national network.

Chairperson of BEAT Sheila Russell said: “Six years ago there was no support for suffer-

ers of this kind of illness in Ashford. Now we have the NHS community team and this group to help each other.”

The launch was attended by local MP Damian Green and consultants Dr Adrian Morris and Dr Prathiba who had treated many of those present at the William Harvey Hospital, and the Mayors of Ashford and Tenterden.

Mr Green, who suffered from asthma as a young child, said: “These kinds of group are very important in the community.”

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Question: Where is the White House?

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TALK TIME

DANIEL JONES

The chairman of Ashford Hospital Broadcasting Service explains about the exciting changes due to take place in 2010



The new year will see a major change in services you provide?

We will be launching AHBS community radio under a licence issued by Ofcom, which is a daunting task but one we are convinced we can achieve to provide a first class service to residents of urban Ashford.

As volunteers you have a remarkable record of service to the hospitals?

We launched in December, 1971, at the old Ashford hospital site and now have around 25 dedicated volunteers providing a 24-hour service to patients at the William Harvey. A lot of the programmes are recorded but for evenings and weekends we provide patient request programmes.

Will the expansion be a whole new ball game?

This is our most exciting expansion to date. We are recognised by East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust as an important part of their volunteer services and that will continue for the patients. Now we will be serving the whole community with both entertainment and community information and involvement.

We will not be just another commercial local radio station with adverts, but a serious service involving local people with a focus on health information. But there will also be close links with all sections of life in Ashford.

For example, we are working with the council to provide programmes on progress and decisions they made, with local schools to get involved and with the wider community able to contribute to the services.

YOUR LETTERS

Surely cyclists are the worst example of green arrogance

Insurance should be compulsory

Interesting thoughts about cyclists and, as I saw on your website many, many of those enthusiasts have seen fit to react angrily.

However, there was one clear point which many missed and that was insurance. In Switzerland for example, cyclists must be properly insured before they ride. That makes sense to me and I'm sure to many other people but cyclists are keeping pretty quiet about that one.

Mr Wright's warning about the Government (should it survive) looking to pick on cyclists next (compulsory crash helmets, protective riding gear, proper liability insurance by law, etc) was well made.

Remember, smokers and fat people have already been picked on, segregated, chastised and outlawed. Cyclists and dog owners must surely be creeping up the list for the next unnecessary, time wasting legislation. Everyone will be made to conform eventually, it's the nature of PC Britain.

Charles Westwood,
Canterbury, by email.

Cycling's good for my body image

Regarding your blog writer on cyclists, as far as insurance, cyclists are covered to third party level through household insurance, and most opt for additional insurance on top. (Unlike the driver that hit me in 2005.)

I'm sure you do know these things; you've done some rudimentary research for the rest of your blog, like what century the car was invented, and show a reasonable grasp of group dynamics, in that all cyclists must ride on the pavement and run red lights because a few do – much like car drivers – and that they are all militantly organised into groups ready to spout group-think to put down dissent – again, much like car drivers.

I don't like to cycle merely because the costs are less than driving a car, or that it's 'green', or that I can get to places a lot quicker than driving, or any of the reasons you mentioned.

I do it because I'm fitter now in my late 30s than I was in my 20s, and my wife loves these new abs I have discovered, especially glistening with baby oil.

Shiny side up,

By Dan, comment on web blog

I'll bet there are more bad drivers

Mr Wright, I have a driving licence, I'm a grown up, I ride a bike for which I pay full insurance including personal liability, I ride on the road and I obey its laws.

I also have deodorant, friends,

no green agenda and my surname does make it rather unlikely I'd have done too well under the Nazis. Not a nice accusation to make to people with living connections to the worst atrocities of that era – or did I just miss the irony again?

I'm not a member of any cycling organisation. I don't speed, I don't park in unauthorised areas (yellow lines, cycle lanes), I indicate my intentions to turn. Can you say the same for motorists in any great number?

Yes there are bad examples of cyclists and we all hate them just as much as you do, but I'd bet my salary to yours that there's a higher proportion of motorists exceed the speed limit than there are lycra-clad cyclists jumping red traffic lights whilst simultaneously hogging the pavement.

Richard, comment on web blog

Driving does nothing for your health

Just to say that if you sweat so much you stink after just four miles on the bike – you are seriously unfit.

Happy car driving mate. It'll do your heart the power of good.

Jo, comment on web blog.

Motorbikers can be dangerous too

Of course there are cyclists who are a menace and a danger to themselves. The same could be said of some motorcyclists, or car drivers.

I see some truly idiotic motorcyclists going through places like the Blackwall tunnel at double

the speed limit, ignoring the double white lines and weaving in and out of heavy traffic with HGVs swinging across lanes.

I also see some really aggressive and arrogant motorcycle driving – going up the inside cycle lane at speed past stationary traffic, using the ASL boxes intended for cycles etc. Do I rant about all motorcyclists? Of course not, these are a small minority whose actions are noticed because of their deviation from the norm.

The standard driving doesn't even get noticed. And so it is with cyclists and all other road users.

Stow, comment on web blog

Take a great leap in support of charity

The Meningitis Research Foundation (MRF) is calling on all those in Kent who are brave enough to take on the challenge of a lifetime for charity.

Adrenaline junkies are being invited to join the parachute challenge at the Maidstone or Marlow airfields for one of the last chances you'll get before the winter weather sets in.

Participants will jump out of a plane at 10,000 feet before freefalling at 120 mph and this amazing experience is free if you raise over £395 in sponsorship.

Those adventurous enough will not only experience the thrill and adrenaline of this challenge, they will also be raising vital funds for a good cause. The MRF rely on fundraising to sustain research into meningitis and septicaemia, raise awareness of the symptoms and support sufferers.

Neil Hardman from the MRF says: "This is one of the most

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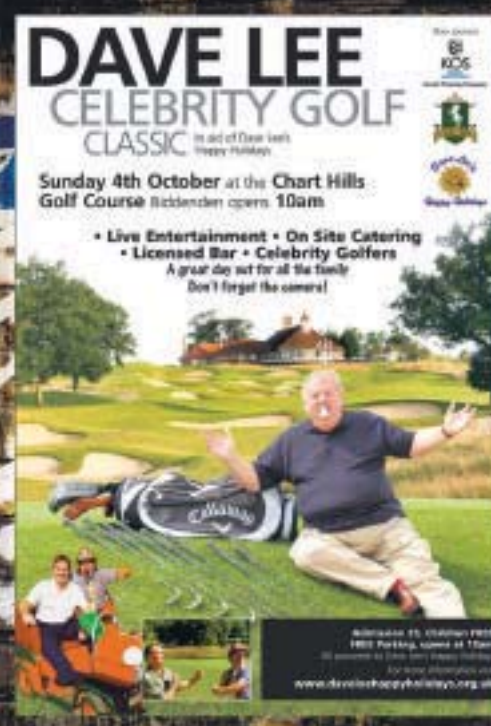
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exciting events you can get involved in if you want to raise money for us. It really is the opportunity of a lifetime. This is one of the last chances you'll get this year to do something this adventurous, so do get in touch soon."

There are several dates and times available for the jumps, if you are interested in finding out more please call 01454 281814 or email fundraising@meningitis.org.

Harpinder Collacott, MRF, Bristol

Help us to support the disaster victims

The Red Cross is now responding to three near-simultaneous disasters across the Asia-Pacific region which is tragically living up to its reputation as one of the most disaster-prone regions of the world.

The British Red Cross is urgently appealing for funds in response to the escalating situation in Samoa, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Early warning systems supported by local Red Cross volunteers have helped to save many lives, but the scale of the disasters has had a huge and devastating impact.

As Typhoon Ketsana slammed into the Philippines and Vietnam,

our volunteers were the first responders to the disaster.

Even before the first raindrops hit the ground in Vietnam, Red Cross volunteers helped evacuate more than 160,000 people.

Hours later a tsunami, triggered by an earthquake, struck the coast of Samoa. Further north, an unrelated quake struck Indonesia, bringing back memories of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. Hundreds are dead and thousands injured.

These multiple disasters have wreaked havoc across the Asia-Pacific region. The need for your support is urgent: the death toll is mounting and human suffering increasing. Local staff and volunteers have been working to evacuate families, set up shelters and distribute emergency aid, but more will be needed and we need to act now.

To donate go to www.redcross.org.uk/asiapacific or call 0845 054 7201.

Mike Goodhand

Head of disaster management, British Red Cross, 44 Moorfields, London, EC2Y 9AL

Speak out over the important issues

Councils have recently begun sending out their annual reminders asking people to make sure they are

registered to vote in future local and national elections.

Receiving these reminders might make people remember how angry they were when the extent of the MP's expenses scandal was revealed over the summer.

But with parliament about to return, and only months to go until the general election, aside from some limp proposals about snail's-pace changes to the House of Lords, very little is any different.

If you find this frustrating, well, there is now something you can do. Backed by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trusts, a new campaign, POWER2010 – already gaining support from thousands – is giving you the chance to have a say in how our country should be run.

You can help set the goals for this campaign by submitting your ideas at www.Power2010.org.uk. The ideas with most support will become a part of the POWER2010 Pledge. Together we will then work to get every candidate standing at the next election to sign up to them. That's how we'll bring about change.

So if you have ideas and want to make a difference, don't let them get away with doing nothing. The countdown to change has begun.

Pam Giddy

Director, Power2010, South Bank House, Black Prince Road, London, SE1 7SJ.

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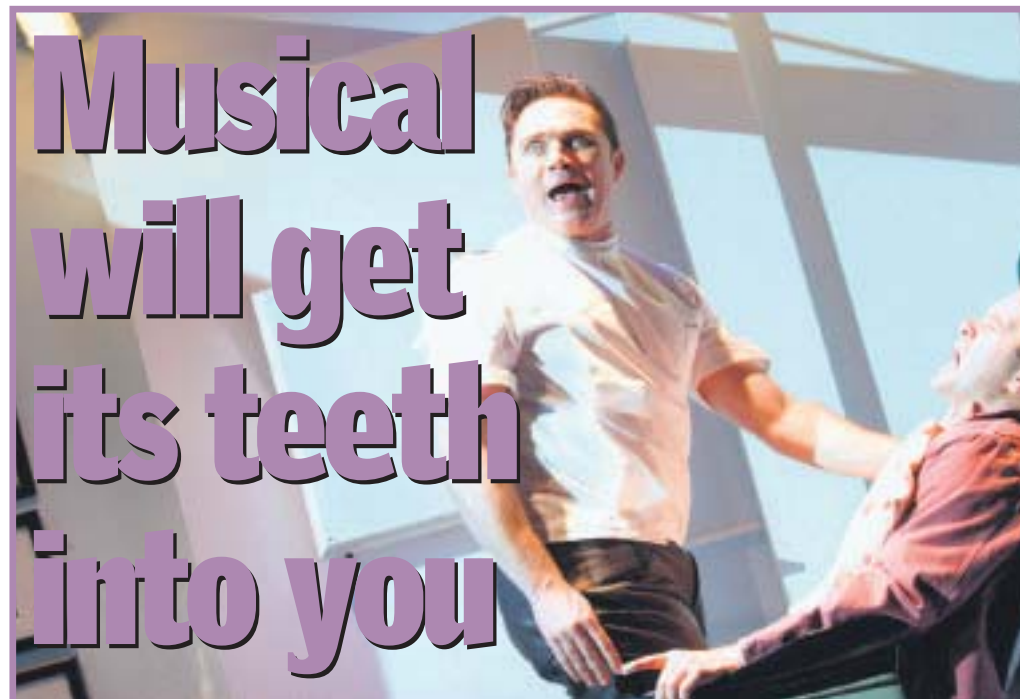
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Little Shop of Horrors show arrives from the West End

A GREEN-fingered shop assistant gets blood on his hands when he discovers a very special carnivorous plant.

The enormously popular Little Shop of Horrors visits Kent this week, direct from a successful season in London's West End. This funny, family-friendly musical will captivate audiences with its unforgettable songs, colourful characters and its giant animatronic, man-eating plant.

Dancing on Ice star Clare Buckfield plays the delicious Audrey, while former EastEnders actor Alex Ferns stars as the deranged dentist.

Damian Humbley steps into the shoes of downtrodden Seymour, a floral assistant who believes he will never win the heart of beautiful colleague Audrey. But one day, just after a sudden eclipse of the sun, he finds a mysterious plant and takes it home.

The unusual specimen does not respond to the normal horticultural routines and looks as if it might die, despite Seymour's most tender attentions.

When he accidentally pricks his finger and draws blood, the plant's enthusiastic response appears to solve the mystery.

But as Audrey II grows bigger and bigger, how long can Seymour keep supplying the carnivorous plant with fresh blood?

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Running until Saturday, October 10

Assembly Hall Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells



Written by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, this wickedly funny musical has become a huge hit when it opened off-Broadway in 1982. Based on the darkly comic 1960 film, the stage version won several awards and inspired a new musical film four years later, although the movie made several changes to the storyline.

Rick Moranis played Seymour and Steve Martin gave an unforgettable turn as the sadistic dentist, Orin Scrivello, while Levi Stubbs voiced the bad-tempered, R&B-loving Audrey II.

Despite the technical challenges presented by the

plant, Little Shop of Horrors is very popular with amateur dramatic groups and schools. This enduring success is probably due to the show's black humour, catchy songs and the larger-than-life personality of its villainous star.

Ferns, who plays Scrivello, became the man viewers loved to hate when he played abusive husband Trevor Morgan in EastEnders.

He made an abrupt exit from the soap in 2002 when Trevor was killed in an explosion.

Buckfield rose to fame in Grange Hill and 2.4 Children before moving on to other acting roles. She won new fans when she came second in the 2007 series of Dancing on Ice and now shows off her singing and dancing skills as soft-hearted beauty, Audrey.

Tickets are priced from £14.50 to £29.50. To book, phone the box office on 01892 530613/532072 or alternatively visit the website at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



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MAURIZIO BAGLINI

Saturday, October 10
Mote Hall, Maidstone



MAIDSTONE Symphony Orchestra's 99th season begins with a visit from Maurizio Baglini, one of Italy's finest young pianists.

In the first of five concerts, the orchestra will perform Romanian Rhapsody No 1 by Enescu, Piano Concerto No 1 by Chopin and Symphony No 5 by Prokofiev. Baglini will be performing with the orchestra as piano soloist, giving the audience an opportunity to see a mesmerising young musician at work.

A regular performer at prestigious worldwide festivals, Baglini will be jetting off to appear at another in Rio de Janeiro the day after the concert. Baglini won the World Music Piano Master in Monte Carlo at the tender age of 24 and is an interna-



tionally active concert pianist.

His recordings include all Chopin Etudes, recorded for Phoenix Classics on modern piano and two different 19th century original pianofortes. Also an avid chamber music performer, Baglini focuses

much of his activity on new partnerships and musical literature.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are priced from £5 to £21 or are free for under-18s. To book call 0845 155 2277 or go online at www.mso.org.uk.

SIR DONALD SINDEN

Saturday, October 10
Sinden Theatre, Tenterden

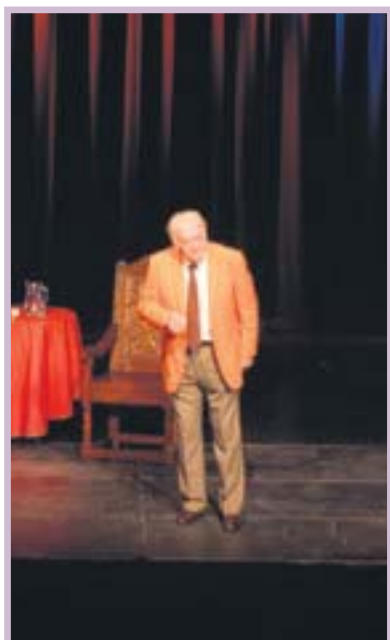


WITH a rich and varied career to draw on, Sir Donald Sinden makes a fascinating host for the evening.

The esteemed actor will be sharing his anecdotes, jokes and plain old-fashioned name-dropping with an audience at the Sinden Theatre this weekend. From sitcoms to Shakespeare, Sir Donald's career has encompassed a wide range of roles and taken him into the company of some remarkable people. As the patron of the theatre, it will be the perfect place for him to share his engaging stories.

Having spent more than 60 years in the business, Sir Donald, 86, has spent a lifetime on the stage and screen. He moved audiences with his award-winning turn as King Lear and made them laugh in comedies such as *Twice Around the Daffodils* and *Doctor At Large*. Sir Donald showed his mettle in the classic war films *The Cruel Sea* and *Above Us The Waves*, before playing an outraged antiques dealer in popular sitcom, *Never The Twain*.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £18. To book call the box office on 01580 763826 or visit the website at www.sindentheatre.biz.



EASY STAR ALL-STARS

Saturday, October 10
Quarterhouse, Folkestone



OVER the last six years, Easy Star All-Stars have become one of the top reggae acts in the world.

The group was actually formed in 1997 as a studio entity for Easy Star Records, but the 2003 release of *Dub Side of the Moon* led to the formation of a touring version. One of a number of best-selling tribute albums, it covers Pink Floyd tracks in reggae style and was named as MOJO's second best cover album of all time.

It was followed by *Radiodread* three years later and *Until That Day* in 2008, an original EP which continued to bring fans of reggae, classic rock, dub and indie rock together. They tackle the music of The Beatles with their latest release,



Easy Star's Lonely Hearts Dub Band, showing the versatility that has attracted fans on five continents.

The band is made up of a rotating cast of musicians and singers, put together by Easy Star co-founders

Michael Goldwasser, Eric Smith and Lem Oppenheimer.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £15. To book call 01303 858500 or go online at www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

ASHFORD LEISURE

An Arena perfect for friday night clubbing

GET the weekend underway by partying all night at Arena, the new nightclub on Ashford's Eureka Leisure Park.

Friday night sees the launch party for Ignition, where guest DJs Sharp Boys, Mark Dickson and Mike Mac will be on the decks and keeping the party going until 4am. The fun starts at 9pm and admission is free all night.

Visit www.arenalive.co.uk.

Enjoy the Company of acoustic performers

MODERN and classic rock songs receive an acoustic makeover when Three's Company performs.

The trio play cover versions using two acoustic guitars and vocals, to give a fresh and intimate performance while staying true to the original version of the song.

Three's Company can be seen at The Star in East Hill, Ashford, on Friday.

Heart Foundation to pump money into Kent

VOLUNTARY and community groups could benefit from grants of up to £2,000 from the British Heart Foundation.

With the Help a Heart Grant programme, projects which promote healthy lifestyles or improve the lives of heart patients and their carers could receive a cash award. To find out more visit www.bhf.org.uk/helpaheartgrant, or call 0207 554 0426.

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Send full details – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or by post to the address on page 2. Submissions should arrive two weeks before publication. If possible, include a good photograph to illustrate your event. We cannot guarantee coverage.

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CREATION (PG)



In the year that marks the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth, Jon Amiel's biopic focuses on the turbulent period before Darwin committed his radical theories to parchment and reshaped science.

ADVENTURELAND (15)



In the summer of 1987, a college graduate takes a part-time job in a theme park and sets himself up for heartbreak when he falls for a co-worker who is having a secret affair with the park's handyman.

AWAY WE GO (15)



Sam Mendes's film paints a vivid portrait of contemporary America and its foibles as expectant parents leave behind their blissful backwoods home for the sake of their imminent child's prospects.

Truth be told, Ricky is just in it for the laughs

■ BY KATE WHITING

YOU'VE got to hand it to Ricky Gervais. Not many men could take the kind of insults thrown at him in his latest film – let alone write them in the first place.

The *Invention Of Lying*, which Gervais wrote, directed and stars in, sees him play loser Mark Bellison – unlucky in love and work but also the only person who can lie in an alternate reality where everyone tells the truth.

So when Mark goes to meet his beautiful blind date Anna (Jennifer Garner), for example, and asks her how she is, she takes one look at him and without a second thought, states: "Depressed and pessimistic about our date."

Surely even Gervais – known for his self-deprecating humour – occasionally reaches saturation point, when the insults start to hurt?

"No," he laughs. "I love it, and I don't know if that's because I've got no ego at all or such a big ego that nothing can hurt me. Someone insulting me makes me laugh."

The film, which recently had its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival, boasts a talented cast, including rising star Jonah Hill, as Mark's suicidal neighbour, the "genetically-perfect" Rob Lowe, as his work and love rival, and cameos from Jason Bateman and his comedy-writing partner Stephen Merchant.

For all his Emmy and Bafta award-winning success, Reading-born Gervais still finds it amazing that he has become one of Hollywood's golden boys.

"I can't believe these people want to work with me. Truth is, I'm a bit of a chancer," he adds, flashing that famously cheeky grin.

"I'm very lucky to be in this position and no one's found me out yet."



HONESTLY: Ricky Gervais is still amazed by his success

While the film marks his directorial debut, the 48-year-old has long been writing his own material – and broke into Hollywood after *Extras* and the US version of *The Office* became hits across the pond.

Since starring in last year's *Ghost Town*, he's lost some of the David Brent paunch from hitting the gym in the States, but he insists he won't change in other ways and will not be sucked into the LA movie-machine.

"I don't think I play the Hollywood game as such – I'm not really an actor for hire. I've done the odd bits, but they're either returning the

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

yourkenttv.co.uk



favour or just for a laugh. I sort of create my own work, really. I own my own labour, so I don't feel that I'm quite part of that mill yet and I don't know if I ever will be or want to be.

"And it felt like that for us on this film, that we were doing something that was ours and then we'll see if anyone wants to show it."

Gervais recently finished work on *Cemetery Junction*, which he wrote, directed and produced with Merchant and is due out next year.

He also starred in it. But ask him whether he prefers being director, actor or writer and he's quick to respond.

"The reason I ever started being in stuff or producing it or directing it was to protect the writing. I see the writing as the DNA and all the rest is bringing up the kid."

THE INVENTION OF LYING 
Certificate 12A

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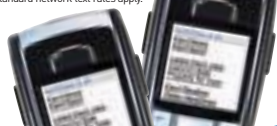
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Author and Flanimal at Waterstone's this week

MEET best-selling children's author Darren Shan and a real-life Flanimal at Bluewater this Saturday.

Shan will be making his last-ever UK book signing appearance at Waterstone's on Saturday, to promote the tenth and final book in his hit Demonata series. He will be signing copies from 10.10am.

Also, to celebrate the release of Ricky Gervais's new book, Flanimals Pop-Up, a character from the book will be at the store between 11am-3pm on Friday.

Pantiles is taking the continental approach

ENJOY a taste of Italy when The Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells is transformed into a continental-style boulevard.

Shoppers will discover a wide selection of both sweet and savoury foods at Italia in Piazza, which takes place from 9am-4pm on Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sunday. From Parma ham to extra long black and chilli pepper spaghetti, there will be something to please every palate.

For more information visit www.thepantilesonline.co.uk.

New book a must-have for Kent's festival-goers

AS the heady days of summer become a distant memory, recapture the excitement with the Festival Annual 09.

Festival-goers have uploaded their photos with the result a 312-page book featuring snapshots from across the country, along with personal stories.

Ten per cent of profits from book sales will be donated to the Oxfam charity.

Priced at £25, the Festival Annual 09 is available from bookshops and online at www.myspace.com/festivalannual.

You can have Monopoly on a National Trust site

BECOME a member of the landed gentry by playing the new National Trust edition of Monopoly.

Players can buy their own stately home or stunning piece of countryside, with the game, which features 26 of the National Trust's most beautiful sites from across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Buy the game for £25 and help to fund the Trust's work. The game is available only from National Trust shops and online at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/shop.

Body Shop Nutriganics keeping wrinkles at bay

COMBAT signs of ageing the organic way with the new skincare range from The Body Shop.

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yourashfordmusic

Heroes showing their mettle with gruelling tour of the UK

BY SIMON ROBINSON

PUNK/pop urchins Underground Heroes will be rocking Wales tonight in Cardiff – their fifth date on a gruelling UK tour.

The Medway quartet's 21-date tour began in Hitchin on Saturday and has already had stop-offs in Portsmouth, Bristol and Southampton.

The Heroes will head to The Garage in London this Saturday before heading north – going all the way up to Glasgow and back.

And their tour comes to a close at Ashford School, Ashford, on Sunday, October 25. That's 21 dates in 23 days.

Now I'm by no means an old man, but I'd struggle to remember my own name after such a gig-packed UK tour, let alone the words and chords to dozens of three-minute punk/pop masterpieces.

Reminiscent

Credit where it's due, the band's commitment to touring and getting their music out there to the masses in such places as Stoke (Sunday night), Doncaster (Thursday) and Crewe (Friday 23) is unsurpassed.

Which is probably half the reason the Underground Heroes are one of the best-known and best-loved emerging unsigned bands in the country and I'm, tragically, not.

That and the fact that the four-piece – made up of brothers Aaron and Joe Dollimore, George Penfold and Jak Miller – are incredibly talented at what they do.

If fast-paced, dangerously catchy yooof rock is what gets you leaping out of your skinny jeans then the Heroes are the band for you.



HARD CRAFT: Medway's Underground Heroes have embarked on a 21-date tour in 23 days, which ends in Ashford

The double vocals – reminiscent of a younger, more angry/drunken pre-break up Libertines Carl Barat and Pete Doherty – work perfectly and the entire band's on-stage enthusiasm is infectious.

It's surely only a matter of time before the

band replaces Derby (Wednesday), Blackburn (Friday) and Dundee (Saturday 17) with bigger venues.

TOUR DATES

- London Garage – Saturday, October 10
- Ashford School – Sunday, October 25

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IN PIECES: Canterbury-based rockers Amber Room perform Better Broken



HEAVY-HEARTED: Grunge outfit Kingskin play their track Stoner Girl



TOP FIVE UNSIGNED CHART

- 1 We Are Tides – Nothing Changes (from Canterbury)
- 2 Directions – Stop Drop and Roll (from Maidstone)
- 3 We Are Tides – White Eyes (from Canterbury)
- 4 Facades – Ghosts (from Canterbury)
- 5 Shelta – Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

LIVE FROM STUDIO FIVE

Five, 6.30pm, week nights

HAVE you seen Live from Studio Five?

If the answer to that is 'yes', then you may, like me, be dead.

I blew my brains out with a shotgun during the second commercial break of the second show I endured.

I'm writing this from the spirit world, sitting on a cloud next to Kurt Cobain, who decided to kill himself as he had seen it coming in the future.

It was grunge rock's first pre-emptive suicide.

OK, I'm not really dead, but anyone who has tuned into this shamolic mess may well have the feeling that life just wasn't worth bothering with any more.

Presenting are three dimwits who may be hard pushed to tie their own shoelaces, in this case ex-footballer Ian Wright, Melinda Messenger and the blonde, prettyish, smiley one from the last series of The Apprentice, Kate Walsh.

These three, who shouldn't be allowed within 300 yards of a sweetshop, let alone on camera to debate current affairs, are allowed to share their insight into the day's news talking points.

And that's bad when there are serious things going on.

After being briefed on the day's current-affairs media output – seemingly about five minutes before the credits roll – the trio of nitwits are let loose on live TV to trundle through their badly-formed opinions.

They offer nothing to any debate... nothing at all.

Interspersed with all this are snippets of celebrity gossip and inane interviews with middle-of-the-road entertainers.



MINDLESS: Ian Wright, Melinda Messenger and Kate Walsh (right) should be switched off

Truly moronic comments abound.

One recent classic was from Kate.

After a screening of Cheryl Cole's new solo video, she, without any sense of irony, asked: "Where are the rest of Girls Aloud?" in a Brummie accent that would shatter bulletproof glass.

Well, that's kind of the point of a solo project, Kate, you do it on your own!

The format itself is tried and tested – Matthew Wright has trod this path for years in the mornings, but at least he can read an autocue or stop himself from bouncing up and down in his chair for more than four seconds, unlike Ian Wright who may have an ant infestation in his underpants.

It won't be long until this is axed, so, if you can hack it, I beg you to take a look and witness the awfulness for yourself before it leaves us forever.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

ERRANDS are catching up with you. You've got to tie up the loose ends you've left straggling. It's much easier to find things when you're not surrounded by clutter all the time. Besides, you'll never know when somebody will drop in unexpectedly. Being a good host will fill you with pride.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

BALANCING your personal and private life is important. If you feel burned out see your boss about taking a break. You may be surprised at how generous they are about giving you time off. Don't neglect a youngster because of your social life. You have of commitments now.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOU'RE tired of the predictability of life. Going on a long trip is just what the doctor ordered. Fortunately, a business or romantic partner has got some spare cash and they'll be happy to share the fun with you. Take this chance to explore a country that has always fascinated you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU could be rewarded for your diligence. If you've been looking for a job you could find one that will let you work from home. If you already have a position you may be given a pay rise. It's even possible your employer will move to a new office that cuts your commute in half.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

A CHEQUE you've been waiting for could finally arrive. Use it to buy something fabulous to help you escape from mundane routines. Don't feel guilty about treating yourself. Normally, you spend your hard-earned money on your nearest and dearest.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

FRIENDS are urging you to expand your horizons. Don't be surprised if one of them asks you to go with them on a trip or gives you some unasked for advice. Stress at work could be affecting your personal life. It's possible you've outgrown this job. Look around for a new position.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOU have a great opportunity to free yourself from debt. If your bills have spiralled out of control contact a financial expert – they can help you. The ability to retire early or pay cash for a house or car will cause your self-esteem to soar. A romance could be brewing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

A LOVE affair has reached an exciting new phase, giving you a fresh outlook on life. In the past you were sceptical about people who claimed to have been transformed by amour. Now you've been converted. Spending more time together will only deepen your commitment.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

YOU'VE been feeling pretty neglected recently. Fortunately, friends are around with all the tender loving care you might need. Normally, you find all this a bit annoying, but now you'll be grateful for it. Try to be reliable at work, or you could make some enemies.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

THIS is a great time to apply for a promotion or high-profile job. Climbing the ladder of success will be effortless. The perks of the new job will be significant. A snooty professional could turn up their nose at your amateur efforts. Don't let them spoil your favourite hobby.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

A CLOSE relationship reaches an important turning point. Getting engaged or married is a strong possibility. So is starting a family. Alternatively, you could decide to form a lucrative business partnership. If you need to buy or sell property, enlist the aid of a professional.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

STICKING close to home will give you quiet pleasure. You have a golden opportunity to take time off and potter around the house. If you've been thinking about buying or selling property, a deal could come through this week. You'll get a lot more money than you bargained for.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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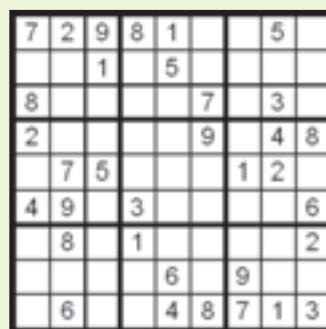
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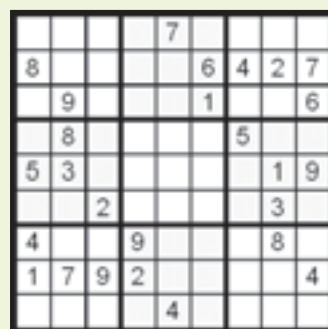
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MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

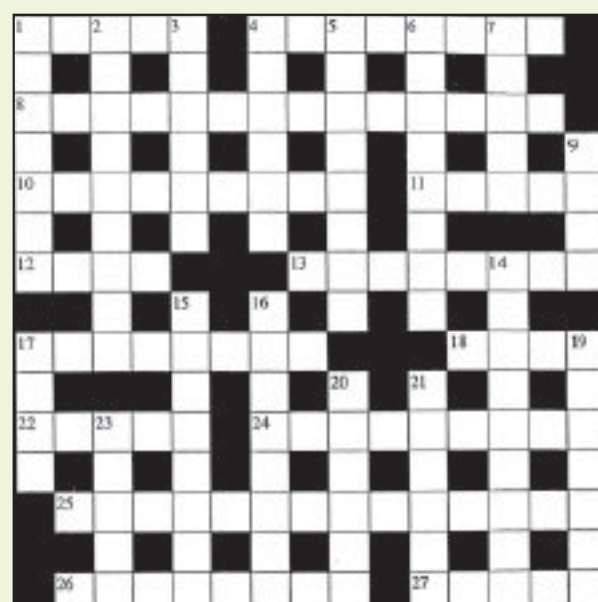
ACROSS

- 1 Engagement ring (5)
- 4 Footwork (8)
- 8 Skilful way of electing candidate? (8,6)
- 10 Run back and harass beast (9)
- 11 He deserts the poor retreating soldiers (5)
- 12 Precious lady? (4)
- 13 Open one's lip? (8)
- 17 Prophet's doleful story (8)
- 18 Change focus quickly seeing animals at menagerie to start with (4)
- 22 Locked in a state of readiness (5)
- 24 Restrict transonic development (9)
- 25 Coming dates (6,8)
- 26 Leo, a gent performing stretch (8)
- 27 River having its ups and downs (5)

DOWN

- 1 Conflicting with conflict? (7)
- 2 Brand Arthur relied on (9)
- 3 Properly – one side only (6)
- 4 Filmy deposit on ornamental tablet (6)
- 5 Number getting in split payment (8)
- 6 Remove article from newspaper perhaps. That's enough (3,2,3)
- 7 Sharon dominated part of musical work (5)
- 9 Quickly rotate flap (4)
- 14 Ambidextrous pair, factory worker and newsman (3-6)
- 15 Dosing me another scarcely detectable amount (8)
- 16 State made an opening thanks to Indian city (8)
- 17 Witticism from card endlessly (4)
- 19 Frenchman longer developing crossbreed (7)
- 20 Attack nave I'd damaged (6)
- 21 Still relaxed (2,4)
- 23 Sing some silly ode lethargically (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Summarise (3,2)
- 4 It might follow foul on pitch (4-4)
- 8 Painful place in prison (7,7)
- 10 Of an uncle (9)
- 11 East African country (5)
- 12 ___ and kin (4)
- 13 Cornish resort (8)
- 17 Chief element (8)
- 18 Enthusiastic (4)
- 22 Jog (5)
- 24 ___ marriage (6-3)
- 25 Philatelist (5-9)
- 26 Newly independent (8)
- 27 Link (3-2)

DOWN

- 1 Relapse (7)
- 2 Inlaid work (9)
- 3 Sudden jump (6)
- 4 Faint (6)
- 5 Urged strongly (8)
- 6 Suicidal attack (8)
- 7 Free from dirt (5)
- 9 Green gem (4)
- 14 Short story (9)
- 15 Long narrow flag (8)
- 16 One-wheeler (8)
- 17 Sovereign (4)
- 19 Early morning moisture (7)
- 20 Charm (6)
- 21 Shy (6)
- 23 Fact (5)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No107

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC SOLUTION No107

ACROSS: 1 Far-off 4 Agadir 10 Jambalaya 11 Oscar 12 Academe 13 Refocus 14 Reap the reward 16 Precipitation 21 Plateau 22 Lexicon 24 Esker 25 Generator 26 Hiding 27 People. DOWN: 1 Fijian 2 Rumba 3 Flare-up 5 Good few 6 Deck-cargo 7 Rarest 8 Take the plunge 9 Sabre-rattling 15 Earmarked 17 Chevron 18 Tax-free 19 Speech 20 Untrue 23 Cut-up.

QUICK SOLUTION No108

ACROSS: 1 Sum up 4 Free-kick 8 Torture chamber 10 Avuncular 11 Kenya 12 Kith 13 Penzance 17 Keystone 18 April 22 Nudge 24 Common-law 25 Stamp-collector 26 Marguerite 27 Tie-up. DOWN: 1 Setback 2 6 3 2 8 9 5 4 1 7 6 3 8 1 3 4 7 2 9 9 5 1 4 6 3 8 7 2 5 9 3 2 8 9 5 4 1 7 6 9 7 5 2 1 6 4 3 8

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website


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A road trip to assault the senses

■ BY ALEX FINER

AS he nonchalantly swerved out of the path of lorries coming over the brow of a hill on the wrong side of the dual carriageway, it was clear that our driver was key to surviving this 1,700-mile journey around Rajasthan.

Even travelling into town from the airport, Sonu manoeuvred the 4x4 Ford Endeavour carrying me, my wife and daughter around the cows – sacred animals to Hindus – that wandered all over the highway.

Defined by the colour of the houses, our Indian journey included the white city of Udaipur on Lake Pichola, the blue city of Jodhpur, golden Jaisalmer near the Pakistan border, via a safari camp at Osian to Rajasthan's pink capital of Jaipur.

There was also a side-trip to Agra for the Taj Mahal before the final leg to Delhi – no wonder I felt like I was in a road movie.

The soundtrack was one of horns – blaring from dilapidated buses, tractors, cars, scooters and auto-rickshaws. The noise was not a frustrated expression of road rage, but rather a co-operative venture in which each vehicle gave notice of its presence.

The Shiv Niwas hotel within the City Palace walls in Udaipur offered us welcome respite, and a tour illuminated the past glories of a royal lineage dating back to the 16th century.

The Mehrangarh Fort dominates the city with a bird's eye view of the cobweb of streets. Now a museum, it is full of artefacts from the Marwar dynasty, from lice combs to highly-prized miniature paintings.

Sonu expertly ferried us between markets and palaces and restaurants, and an optician



COLOUR: From the bright, busy streets, to the calm of the desert, there's beauty everywhere you look

where my wife's sunglasses were repaired with a smile and without charge.

All too soon, on we went across increasingly flat, sandy terrain to Jaisalmer. We stayed in the Mandir Palace hotel, built over centuries in elaborately-carved golden sandstone.

We bought cotton shirts and yoga trousers made to measure in three hours, haggled over a painted window-shutter, had an authentic oily Ayurvedic massage and enjoyed curries at the Trio restaurant with its view over the ramparts of the fort.

At Sam, further into the Thar Desert, we rode camels as the sun set and shadows lengthened over the sand-dunes.

Back on the road, we reached Jaipur, population 2.5 million.

Early the following morning, Sonu drove us to Dera Amer, where, like some colonial

Viceroy, I took a pre-breakfast ramble among cacti and parakeets atop a painted elephant.

I lost count of the number of dead dogs on the road to Agra, and the white chimneys of brick kilns flashing past began to resemble temple spires. It was hard, however, not to be impressed by the symmetry and perfect proportions of the Taj Mahal, even when viewed through a cold December fog. Its white marble had an ethereal, weightless appearance, as if it could float off at any moment.

As for Sonu, he was pale with the concentration of negotiating five lines of traffic squeezed into three by the time we finally reached Delhi. Not even that final tortuous drive through New Year's Eve traffic seemed to ruffle him.

You'll find the roads of Rajasthan almost relaxing with Sonu as your driver, but tip well: he deserves it.

FACT FILE: RAJASTHAN

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Time difference | +4.5 hours (GMT) |
| Capital | Jaipur |
| Languages | Rajasthani and Hindi |
| Population | About 56.5 million |
| Currency | £1 = approx 77 Indian Rupees |
| Religion | mix, mainly Hindu |

Travel facts

• Alex Finer was a guest of Abercrombie & Kent, which offers the Essence of Rajasthan, a 15-day journey via Delhi, Jaipur, Nimaj, Osian, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Ranakpur, Devigarh and Mumbai, from £3,495 per person, including return flights, transfers, B&B accommodation, private car and driver, guide and admittance to all sites.

A&K is supporting the exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London from Saturday, October 10, entitled: Maharajah: the Splendour of India's Royal Courts. See www.vam.ac.uk for more details.

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- Why internal organisation pays
- Small businesses need to focus on finance
- Discovering the biggest killer of business
- Think of your future pension
- Top tips for household savings
- Organise invoice finance for tough times
- The big move back into shares
- Don't cut corners with insurance
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■ SCG Construction in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off all landscaping

■ Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items

■ The White House hair and beauty salon in Deal is offering a free manicure at the same time as a cut and finish

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering 50 per cent off leisure club joining fee when you present a voucher available from www.vouchersforkent.co.uk

■ KOS is offering ultra slim Danish Skagen watches for men and women at only £69.99, saving £20 on the RRP

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■ Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories

■ Secure Style windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Prudence will pay you dividends

ECONOMIC confidence seems slowly but surely to be returning, with forecasters now only arguing about when the recession will officially be over.

But for firms still struggling to make ends meet the priority will

still be making sure they are in business when we finally turn the corner.

To help firms on their way we have some expert opinion on financial issues such as cash flow, invoice financing, insurance, pensions, and how to do some prudent pruning on expenditure.

We also feature some of the

many money-saving offers available at vouchersforkent.co.uk.

There are offers for leisure, food and drink; motors and servicing; and retail, trades and services.

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Christmas is still a few months away yet, but if money is tight it may be easier spread out the present buying over a few months.

So why not spend a few minutes flicking through the online booklets, and you may end up being able to tick off a few people from your present list and save yourself money at the same time.

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Go for prudent



WISE spending is simply about questioning every expenditure.

Some business owners are so engrossed in running their companies and chasing the next big sale, that they forget to focus on their finances.

It's like driving 100 miles per hour around the M25 with no destination in mind and not looking at the fuel gauge. In a recession every business needs to rethink all its costs as priorities change.

Review your expenses

Keeping track of your costs can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be a mammoth task – simply check bank statements regularly and make a note of what payments are due and when.

Remember to include taxes, National Insurance contributions, pension contributions and any licences you may need.

Although the 'tax man' has arguably been lenient over recent months by allowing payments to be delayed, he'll still want his money, and if the Treasury's coffers dwindle much further, it'll be a case of sooner rather than later.

Look at it the way you look at your household budget.

Be aware of every fixed cost, including salaries, rent and business rates, and every variable cost, including materials and stationery.

If you need to cut, prioritise

Cutting costs isn't always easy, but it might be essential to help get you through the recession.

However it is vital that cuts are made in the right places, so assess which areas your



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pruning and not slash and burn

business can realistically afford to cut back on.

Consider whether your labour force is too big, but increasingly businesses are thinking about reducing staff hours, job-sharing or offering a sabbatical before the ultimate sanction of making redundancies.

For 'one-man bands', vacating a premises and renting a serviced office for meetings and working from home may be an option, especially if you have the right IT in place.

When looking to shave costs, suppliers, including landlords, are more likely to be flexible if you let them know sooner rather than later and keep to the agreed payment terms.

Monitor your returns

For every sale you make you need to assess whether it is worth it, as the true margin is sales, minus variable costs, minus the actual cost of collecting the cash.

The danger when work is tight is that businesses go chasing sales. If you are forced to do this, always make sure you've credit checked your new customer before agreeing terms.

You should also consider putting invoice



When faced with falling sales, reduced access to credit and squeezed profit margins, many small businesses find it hard going. However, **Andrew Metcalf**, vice chairman of the Institute of Directors Kent and director of Maxim, the Tunbridge Wells-based PR and marketing agency, believes those who keep a close eye on their costs and spend wisely are more likely to survive

finance in place, and at the very least make sure your credit control people keep an eye on customers who are slow to pay.

Wisdom

When it comes to the costs you do control, such as PR and marketing, take time out to get a feel for whether the strategy is working.

Every hard-earned pound should be made to work very hard. If it's not delivering consider changing tack, taking advice and looking at what your competitors are doing.

Be careful not to cut costs in the wrong areas, however, as this could do more harm than good.

The received wisdom is don't cut your advertising or marketing costs altogether – as the people who have been best placed for the upturn are those who persisted with their marketing. I would say that wouldn't I? But it's true.

• To contact IoD Kent call 01732 849570, Andrew Metcalf can be contacted on 01892 513033.



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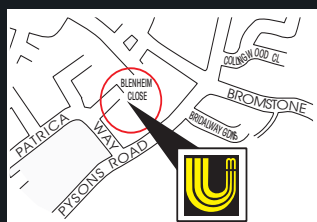
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■ Experience the natural comfort, warmth and luxury of a traditional feather mattress with the innovative mattress topper from only £39.99, save over 50 per cent. Various sizes available thanks to KOS offer

■ Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £25 off removal of skin tags, moles, verrucas, warts, red veins, cysts and skin peels

■ KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP

■ Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering 20 per cent off your bill at Starbucks café with a voucher, please note this offer is only valid at Village Hotel Maidstone – get your voucher from www.vouchersforkent.co.uk

■ KOS is offering a leather organiser handbag by Jane Shilton only £49.99 inc p&p, saving £40 off RRP

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Bronze Care Petrol or Diesel £109

■ KOS is offering luxury Egyptian cotton 400-count percale bed linen. Save up to 40 per cent off RRP

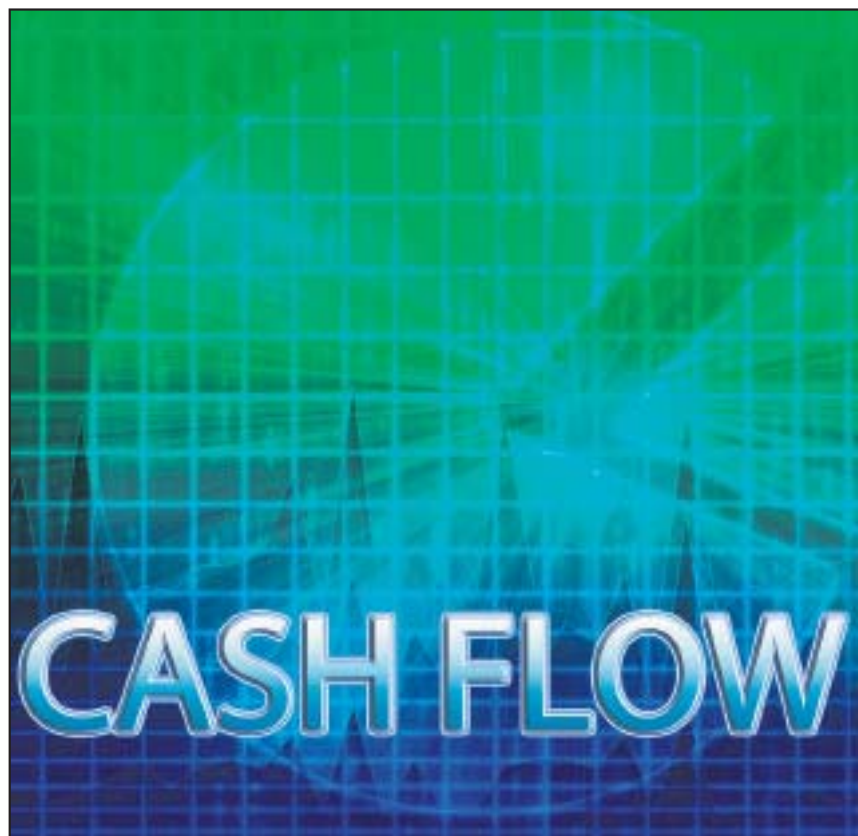
■ True Grip leisure activity centre in Canterbury is offering 15 minutes of karting, £10 on arrive and drive. Sundays only, 10am-2pm

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Don't let cash flow



WITH tough trading conditions set to continue for some time, it is more important than ever for Kent companies to keep a close eye on their cash flow, according to Business Link.

Ian Netherton, Business Link business adviser, warns that poor cash flow is the biggest single killer of otherwise viable businesses.

"Even companies that have never had any problem with cash flow or credit control need to have systems in place," said Mr Netherton. "Otherwise the loss of a major customer or events over which they have no control – such as disruptions to the postal service or a major increase in cases of swine flu – can have serious knock-on effects."

Business Link recommends that companies should have at least some of the following credit control procedures in place:

- Carry out credit checks on new customers before supplying them with goods and services
- Be clear right from the start about your terms of business
- Make sure the goods and services delivered are as specified – so there's no excuse to query the invoice
- Send your invoice promptly and check it has arrived
- Keep an aged debtors ledger so you can see at a glance who owes how much and from when
- Two or three days before an invoice is due to be paid, phone to make sure



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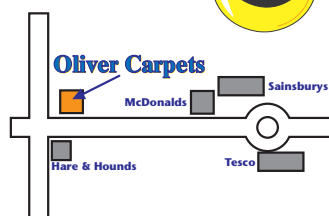
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drain your business dry

that payment is set to be made

- As soon as payment is due, send a statement
- After a fortnight, telephone or send a letter – if necessary follow this with a visit
- Consider charging interest on the late sum – as allowed under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998
- Make use of technology – send invoices by email (they won't get lost or held up in the post) and ask for payment by BACS CHAPS to prevent the risks associated with bounced, missing or lost cheques
- Carry out monthly cash flow forecasts, more often during leaner periods.

Mr Netherton continued: "At this time of year, businesses need to pay particular attention to how their bank balance will be looking in coming months.

"Although good for people in sectors such as retail and leisure, Christmas can be bad news for many companies as poor weather, staff sickness and the extended holiday period can have a major impact on income.

"When this is combined with the bills that many companies face in January – such as corporation tax self-assessment payments – then it is no surprise that the first quarter of the calendar year is the peak period for company insolvencies."

If cash flow forecasts show that money is likely to be tight in coming months, Mr Netherton advises keeping your bank abreast of the situation and also considering options such as

factoring and invoice discounting.

He added: "Don't hide from financial problems – confront them and once you have a system in place it is relatively easy to keep on top of your debts.

"The benefits will include being able to reduce your borrowing, less stress and a more dependable supply of cash.

"And you will be at the front of the queue when your customer is paying his bills – because it is the businesses that chase for payment that get paid first."

"Business Link can offer support and advice on how to improve cash flow as part of a free, confidential Business Review.

"For businesses with four or more staff, this review is undertaken with the owner or manager by a Business Link adviser at a local venue or at the company's premises.

Subsequently, the adviser will prepare a plan summarising the practical actions agreed during the meeting.

Also included will be useful information and referrals to suitable organisations and services that will further help to improve the overall performance of the business.

For owner managed businesses with no more than two full-time staff, the Business Review is provided as part of a four hour workshop called 'Boost your sales and profits'.

The free workshops are available across Kent until December.

For more information about managing cash flow or to book a free Business Review, call 0845 600 9 006.



WARNING: Ian Netherton, Business Link business adviser

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Sacrifice now for a better pension later

NEW pension rules that were due to come into force in 2012 requiring all employers to make pension contributions for their staff have been delayed by up to a further four years, depending on the size of the company.

Steve Carpenter, tax manager at Maidstone-based DSH Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, explains below that starting pension contributions now is more important than ever.

The Personal Accounts savings scheme is designed to encourage those on low and middle incomes to save for their retirement. More than 10 million workers were set to be automatically enrolled in the pension from April, 2012, over an 18-month period.

Contribution

The eventual target contribution is three per cent of the employee's salary. To encourage employees to contribute as well, their pension fund will receive a tax relief payment from the Government equivalent to 25 per cent of their contributions, which are targeted at four per cent of pay.

The Government has now admitted workers will have to wait to receive the full benefits of the scheme, with some facing a wait until October, 2016, before they can join.

As the new rules have been delayed, starting contributions now, in advance of the new rules, should lead to better pensions on retirement.

An opportunity to do this already exists by using salary sacrifice in agreement with their employer. These allow employees to work for a lower rate of pay in exchange for a pension benefit from their employer. This can leave you both better off.

Take a typical employee earning £30,000 per annum, for example, who makes personal pension contributions of £100 per month. The pension company can claim a tax credit of £300, making the total contribution to the pension £1,500 for the year. Their pay after tax will be £22,624, leaving £21,424 to spend after paying pension contributions. The cost to the employer is £33,108.

If the employer pays £1,500 to the pension plan instead, and the employee's pay is reduced to, say, £28,500, the employee will have an extra £165 to spend after deducting tax and national insurance, but with no pension contributions to make. In addition, the total costs to the employer fall by over £190.

So, instead of waiting for the Government to make provisions for your future, consider a salary sacrifice arrangement which can benefit both employers and employees.

• **DSH Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors** can be contacted on 01622 690666 or visit www.dsh.co.uk.



FUTURE: Steve Carpenter urges people to pay into a pension now

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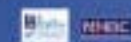
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Crunch your spending

BY JEREMY GATES

TWO years into a credit crunch, it's easy to get carried away by the euphoria created by the booming stock market and widespread talk that recession is over.

At household level, the situation is more serious, with accountants KPMG predicting personal insolvencies will hit a record 150,000 plus in 2009.

Debt Relief Orders, enabling consumers with debts under £15,000 to escape bankruptcy, are 28 per cent up on 2008 levels.

With widespread job losses yet to really start in the public sector, finances for many households will be strained for months, even years, to come.

Here are some tips for slashing your costs:

Cut energy bills

Households paying online and by direct debit now pay £284 per year less than those which get bills through the post and pay by other means – that's £978 against £1,262.

And the gap could top £300 soon, reckons Mark Todd at energyhelpline.com.

"It is no accident that the gap is widening so fast," he says. "Many people are coming off capped rates at the same time, so the energy suppliers – six majors and smaller players – are swooping like vultures to grab as many as they can."

"Unless you are vigilant and shop around, you won't get a good deal. It's as simple – and brutal – as that."

Todd says consumers may need only an email address to get the best deals. For EDF's



SAVING: More people are discovering the benefits of hunting for money-off coupons

Online 5 account, they can sign up on the internet and then ask for paper bills.

Around 40 per cent of consumers pay bills by direct debit, saving an average £98 per year.

Save more with coupons

With profits at Morrisons surging 40 per cent on a promise of good value, supermarkets chasing market share are expanding own brand lines, including Waitrose Essentials, Tesco's Discounter range and Sainsbury's 'switch and save' campaign.

But canny shoppers can go one better by using vouchers to cut prices of many goods and services.

There's been a massive switch to vouchers and coupons in the past year.

Robin Goad, UK director at competitive intelligence service Hitwise, says: "People look online to research a product, looking at where

to find the best price, and finally doing a search to see if there is a voucher for it."

Make savings count

Kevin Mountford of moneysupermarket.com claims savers have not suffered adversely in the banking crisis.

"Although interest rates are down from 5.25 per cent to 0.5 per cent, because savings rates have decreased by a lesser degree (and indeed are starting to rise again) savers get a better margin above base rate than this time last year," he says.

Try to pay off debt

Although personal debt levels fell in August for the first time in 16 years, Danny Cox of Hargreaves Lansdown says this should be only a start.

"Reduce spending and use money saved to reduce personal debt first (credit cards, overdrafts, store cards, loans) and then your mortgage," he advises. "Hold a cash cushion to help meet unexpected bills or to cover expenditure if income reduces or falls."

Hunt for the cheapest loans

"If you need to borrow to buy a new car, or a better secondhand one, a personal loan can be the cheapest option," says Nationwide's Chris Rhodes. "Packages offered by dealers can look attractive, but a special offer of zero per cent finance for the first year can move into a higher rate for the rest of the term and prove more expensive in the long run."

Rent, don't buy

In August, rentals of DIY equipment surged 35 per cent, gardening equipment 28 per cent, and motorhomes 54 per cent, according to online rental marketplace erento.co.uk.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Canterbury Hyundai motor dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs while you wait

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering this deal: buy two large glasses of wine and get the rest of the bottle free at the Victory pub

■ Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering a Lifeshine full car care for only £299

■ Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate, Herne Bay and Cliftonville is offering five per cent off when you spend over £250

■ Secure Style, windows, doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off windows and doors

■ Lay Well flooring store in Sittingbourne is offering a free upgrade on underlay

■ Cliftonville tile centre in Cliftonville is offering free adhesive and grout on all tile orders over 15 metres

■ Decorators Choice, supplier of paints and wallpapers in Canterbury, is offering 15 per cent off all paints

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■ KOS is offering Pulsar Kinetic watches for only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving over 50 per cent on RRP

■ The White House hair and beauty salon in Deal is offering a free 10-minute Kerastase treatment

■ Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £45

■ KOS is offering Sun Blaster Glare Shields from £14.99

■ FG Barnes motors in Maidstone is offering MOTs for only £39.99

■ Bannatyne Health Club in Ashford is offering a brand new gym bag worth over £25 to all new members

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phones for just £24.99, save £20

■ SCG groundworks in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off all building works

■ KOS is offering goose down surround pillows from only £24.99 inc p&p, save up to £125 on RRP

■ Secure Style windows, doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off fascias

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Invoice finance is capital idea



ORGANISING CASH FLOW: Paul Saunders

A SALE isn't a sale until the money is the bank, and with late payment of invoices a serious problem for small businesses, there may never have been a better time to adopt invoice finance as a way of maintaining your company's bank balance.

In times of economic difficulty small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) traditionally face cash-flow issues that are compounded by a tendency among their customer businesses to delay payments, usually because they face similar difficulties.

The Federation of Small Businesses recently confirmed companies have seen their usual 30-day wait for an invoice to be paid stretched out to 60 or even 120 days by their customers, many of which are large corporations and retailers.

These delays can prove catastrophic for otherwise viable businesses.

Invoice finance takes away this stress. Clydesdale Bank's invoice finance service enables businesses to obtain immediately up to 85 per cent of the value of invoices they issue, with the remainder payable when payment is received.

This means they always have rapid access to funds which reflect their commercial performance.

Paul Saunders, managing partner at Maidstone, explained: "Invoice finance is all about improving cash flow, which is a major issue for businesses as it leads to more companies failing than anything else.

You can have the best sales pipeline in the world but if you don't have cash coming in you won't be able to meet salary

payments or pay your key suppliers.

"Invoice finance works by bridging the gap between an invoice going out the door and payment coming in, which helps the company run smoothly. We fund the lion's share of the invoice value when it is raised, with our clients getting the rest when their customer pays."

Recognising the scale of the demand, Clydesdale Bank recently committed an extra £100 million to its invoice finance fund. The increased support for the local SME community is available through the bank's Financial Solutions Centres (FSC) in Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone.

"Invoice finance is fast replacing traditional overdrafts as the preferred way to borrow, and the certainty over cash flow it gives is even more important in the current climate. We responded to increased demand by earmarking an extra £100m for lending in this area and I'm pleased to say it's already making a real difference," said Mr Saunders.

Shield

"As well as helping existing business customers of the bank, we are keen to see new, well-managed companies benefit from this new fund, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to supporting the SME community, which is the backbone of the economy."

Alongside invoice finance, Clydesdale Bank has also seen many clients opting to take up credit insurance to protect them from customers going bust. Every time a company fails there is a financial impact to all of their suppliers as well, and credit insurance helps to shield a business from this.

Local businesses interested in finding out more about invoice finance or other funding options, can call Clydesdale's business branches in Maidstone (01622 625400) or Tunbridge Wells (01892 617620).

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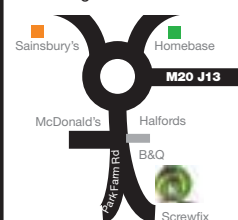
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■ KOS is offering Swarovski Crystals Double Heart Pendant for £29.99

■ True Grip leisure activity centre in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off 4x4 road driving experience

■ KOS is offering personalised Weekender bags for only £29.99

■ Caffyns Vauxhall motor dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering £250 off used vehicles when you present your voucher only at Caffyns Vauxhall Chevrolet

■ KOS is offering Garden Sonic Blaster for only £29.99

■ The White House hair and beauty salon in Deal is offering 30 per cent off colouring

■ KOS is offering Zero Gravity recliner chairs from only £124.99

■ Baileys Nissan motor dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing

■ KOS is offering Sanderson Summer Breeze bedlinen. Save £50 on RRP

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Investors return

By JEREMY GATES

ALTHOUGH evidence of economic recovery remains patchy, small investors are turning their backs on poor savings rates and moving back into shares.

Three new surveys all confirm that small investors have played their part in the bounce in London's FTSE-100 from 3,460 points in March to more than 5,000 now.

In total, they have over £150 billion in shares, against the peak of £283bn in 1999.

Virgin Money says 45 per cent of independent financial advisors think shares now provide the best return on clients' money, against only 29 per cent a year ago.

Confident

"Cash is the big loser as investors have started to shirk the relative safety of cash in favour of capitalising on the long but consistent curve of recovery in the stock market," says spokesman Grant Bather.

This view is confirmed by Rebecca O'Keefe, head of investment at Interactive Investor, where online trades cost £10 each.

"Trading figures have returned to levels we have not seen since the peak of the dot.com bubble in 2001," she says.

"As the FTSE hovers around 5,000, investors clearly remain confident the market will continue to perform well. August saw record UK trading on our platform, with trading again dominated by big banks and companies involved in mineral production."

More than 140,000 small investors trade with Interactive Investor, and some have seen a 70 per cent jump in the value of their portfolios in 2009, often because they backed stricken banks.

Barclays is up seven-fold, while Royal Bank of Scotland has seen a five-fold rise.

A third survey, from Prudential, says share buying by small investors is rarely based on expert knowledge.

The Pru thinks more than 17 million small investors have held shares at some time over the past decade, and two-thirds of them (65 per cent) bought without any professional advice.

Mostly, they rely on internet searches or media reports when selecting shares to buy. Only 16 per cent are guided by a financial advisor, four per cent consult a stockbroker, while 10 per cent are guided by bank or building society staff.

"Not everybody is fortunate enough to have spare funds to save or invest, but many people do," says Trevor Cheal, Prudential retirement savings business director.

"It is staggering how few are seeking financial advice or looking to capitalise on the growth potential the stock market has historically offered."

Shares, therefore, may be driven by the 'herd instinct'. What happens next is anybody's guess.

"Those who have underestimated this rate of recovery have been hurt badly," says Jeremy Smith, head of UK equities for fund manager Neptune Investment Management.

"We believe that, with continued positive momentum, the FTSE-100 can reach 5,500 in short order."

But Derek Stuart, manager of the highly-rated Artemis UK Special Situations Fund, warns that markets have moved far beyond fundamentals.

With rising oil prices, rising unemployment and the biggest decline in US consumer credit since 1944, he wonders how long the rally can last.

Talk of resurgent shares poses a big dilemma for Britain's over-50s.

From October 6, they can invest a maximum £10,200 each in equity ISAs (Individual Savings Accounts) under new limits allowed by Chancellor Alistair Darling. The new limit applies to everybody else from April, 2010.

The ISA wrapper means all capital gains on shares is tax free. Dividend income is taxed at 10 per cent. For higher-rate taxpayers, the attractions are obvious.

But if markets lose their nerve, or Britain's economy enters the widely-feared 'double-dip recession', buying shares now could soon incur hefty losses.

In these uncertain times, here are the key rules for investors to follow:

- After London shares have risen so far so fast, chances of further capital gains are inevitably reduced, in the short term at least.

With commentators predicting falls in the next 18 months, equity investment must be for a minimum five years, preferably for 10.

One of the most successful managed funds, Jupiter Financial Opportunities, has produced a total return of 815 per cent since its launch in June, 1997, a compound annual growth rate of 19.8 per cent.

Fund manager Philip Gibbs parked a big slice of his fund in cash through last year's turmoil, so his supporters are keen to see what he does next.

- Older investors, closer to retirement, need the protection of a widely-diversified portfolio to ensure their income stream is not slashed by the sort of market turmoil we saw in autumn 2008.

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|-----------|----------------------------|--------|
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| Tues 20th | London Eye & Thames Cruise | £36.00 |
| Thur 29th | Boulogne & Nausicaa | £23.00 |
| Sat 31st | Halloween at Disneyland | £60.50 |

November ADULT

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------|
| Mon 2nd | Afternoon Cite Europe | £13.00 |
| Sat 7th | Disney On Ice Princess Wishes | £41.00 |
| Tues 10th | Cherkley Court & Gardens Christmas Fair | £19.50 |
| Wed 11th | Ypres Battlefield Tour & Menin Gate | £35.00 |
| Mon 16th | Westfield Shopping Centre | £17.00 |
| Thur 19th | Boulogne | £23.00 |
| Sat 21st | Romford Market | £15.00 |
| Wed 25th | Blewater or Lakeside | £16.50 |
| Sat 28th | Bruges Christmas Markets | £31.00 |
| Sat 28th | Birmingham Tattoo (2 Days 1 Night) | £97.00 |

November (continued) ADULT

| | | |
|----------|--|---------|
| Mon 30th | Warner's Bodelwyddan Castle | £295.00 |
| | Historic Hotel, Wales | |
| | (5 Days 4 Nights) | |
| Mon 30th | Maidstone & Newnham Court Shopping Village | £11.50 |

December ADULT

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Sat 5th | Christmas at Heaven Farm & Batemans | £19.50 |
| Sun 6th | Frankfurt Christmas Markets | £34.00 |
| Mon 7th | Afternoon Cite Europe | £13.00 |
| Wed 9th | London Christmas Lights & Sights | £16.00 |
| Sat 12th | Thursford Christmas Spectacular | £58.00 |
| Sat 12th | Bruges Christmas Markets | £31.00 |
| Sun 13th | Lille Christmas Markets | £33.00 |
| Sat 19th | Christmas at Disneyland Paris | £60.50 |
| Sun 20th | Calais Christmas Markets | £19.50 |

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for share of the action

"A portfolio should include equities, bond funds, cash and property, reflecting your own attitude to risk," says Ben Yearsley at IFA Hargreaves Lansdown.

- Make sure any equity investment is global, because Britain faces a turbulent 18 months while other parts of the world are likely to recover more quickly.

Yearsley, for instance, likes the Neptune Balanced Growth Fund, with nearly half invested in the UK, five per cent in Japan, five per cent in Russia and the rest spread around countries and sectors which look interesting.

Drip feeding

Another well-regarded fund is First State Asia Pacific Leaders, a £2.9 billion fund invested in large and mid-cap companies in Asia Pacific, excluding Japan.

- In rockier economic times, steady income may be more important than capital growth – so look to invest in funds which invest in companies which pay good dividends.

- Look to drip-feed an investment, paying in perhaps £100 per month to a managed fund. It means if the share price falls, you get more units when share prices eventually recover.

"By drip-feeding funds into the market over the longer term, investors take advantage of pound cost averaging, buying in peaks and troughs but buying disproportionately more on dips," says Dr Stephen Barber, who advises Selftrade, an execution-only stockbroker.

Above all, whatever Prudential might suggest, the global economy is really too risky these days for investors to rely on rumours and online discussion boards. They really should check the views of professionals – fund managers and financial advisors – before they commit cash. The old days of easy profits on equities may be gone forever.



LONG-TERM INVESTMENT: Three new surveys all confirm that small investors have played their part in the bounce in London's FTSE-100

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DON'T GAMBLE:
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cut costs

Cutting corners is a risky business

WITH an estimated one-in-four households choosing not to renew or cancelling their insurance premiums, industry experts believe many business owners, struggling in the current recession, will follow suit in a bid to cut costs.

However, Belmont International, one of the South East's largest independent insurance brokers, based near Sevenoaks, believes that companies can avoid putting themselves at risk by spending a little time examining what they actually need to ensure compliance with their legal obligations, commercial mortgages or leases, or what financial risk they can bear.

A recent survey of 2,000 households, undertaken by YouGov research on behalf of the Association of British Insurers (ABI), found that 22 per cent of households had cancelled their contents insurance and 17 per cent had ditched the compulsory buildings insurance in an effort to cut costs during the recession.

Belmont International has successfully helped many local businesses to reduce their premiums without the need for such drastic action resulting in lower costs and the all-important peace of mind.

Jeopardise

David Armstrong, associate director at Belmont International, said: "Although many businesses may be struggling financially during the current recession, deciding to stop paying their premiums or renewing their buildings, business continuity insurance, to save money is a very risky game to play.

"Failure of the directors to adequately insure a business's activity or essential asset can seriously jeopardise the future of a business and in the case of liability insurance could leave business owners and directors exposed to prosecution and personal financial loss."

Commercial property insurance is important for most businesses, says Belmont International.

Not insuring a commercial property in terms

of its physical structure leaves a business financially exposed should there be a serious incident and may place them in breach of the terms of any mortgage agreement.

The cost of building insurance is determined by a combination of factors, including postcode, the size and type of the property, the insurer's view on the prevalence (or absence) of crime, flooding or subsidence in the area, as well as any attempts by the owner to improve the property's security and claims history.

Mr Armstrong continued: "The key is not to underinsure, so make sure you have a proper re-instatement valuation, plus inventory of stock and equipment.

"The tendency is to underestimate so as to minimise premiums and then regret it when the claim comes in.

"Many businesses may consider the risk of a fire to be low particularly if they have good security and fire protection thus reducing premiums, but retaining cover.

"There are a variety of things that company owners should consider when wishing to minimise costs without jeopardising their business, but only experts such as Belmont International will know what all of those risks and options are."

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Think meaner, leaner and greener

CARMAKERS deserve credit for some leaner and meaner models in response to global warming, new legislation and volatile fuel prices.

It normally takes five to seven years to bring a new car to the market, so 'new generation' cars we all crave simply cannot happen overnight.

But manufacturers are understandably reluctant to sideline the internal combustion engine in favour of expensive research and development of new technologies.

Nevertheless, the Government is pressurising people into smaller and cleaner cars through new road tax bandings, ranging from zero to £400/year and set to become tougher.

Next year, gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 road tax in the first year although anyone spending £50-100,000 surely won't blink at this 'paltry' sum.

For most of us though,

BY **STEVE LOADER**

saving a few quid and doing our bit for the environment is sensible and worthy and, with electric cars automatically exempt from tax, politicians and carmakers are jumping on the electric bandwagon now.

There has been lots of publicity about 'plug-in' models for overnight charging at home or swanky city centre charging points.

But this is simply sweeping car emissions under the carpet or, more correctly, whisking them up the belching chimney of the nearest conventional power station.

Sure, moves are afoot to re-energise the nuclear generation industry, but we all have qualms about that and it won't happen overnight.

So, what are the other runners? Japanese giants Toyota and Honda have stormed ahead with hybrids pairing a convention-

al engine with electric power and batteries and Peugeot will follow soon, with other brands set to join the club, but hybrids are expensive.

And so we come back to the internal combustion 'lump' where emissions are plummeting, economy is soaring and refinement is improving.

In fact, things are moving so fast that you marvel at what a few well-applied kicks up the backside can achieve.

The downsizing phenomenon is also well under way, with several new cars proving that 'small is beautiful' such as Toyota's all-new IQ baby car, seating three adults and a child within a bodyshell barely longer than a two-seat Smart city car.

And Italy's Fiat has reversed its fortunes by looking to the past to design a Fiat 500 (pictured) for the 21st Century.

Most carmakers also now have an 'eco sub-brand' such as Vauxhall's ecoFLEX line-up and Kia's EcoDynamics, but they don't come cheap, so weigh potential long term savings against upfront cost – if you don't cover the miles, conventional alternatives may be a better bet.

Don't ignore petrol models either; the higher price of diesel cars and the fuel at the pumps must be compared with new small capacity low emission/consumption petrol engines such as the turbocharged 1.4-litre unit on the Fiat Grande Punto.



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*Model shown is Picanto 1.2 at £4,495 On The Road (OTR) after deducting £2,000 Government and Kia Scrappage incentive. Government Scrappage incentive applies to cars or vans registered on or before 31 October 2005 only when traded in against new cars. Scrapped vehicles must have been registered to the purchaser for at least the 12 months preceding the purchase of the vehicle and be MOT'd and taxed. Terms and conditions apply. Prices correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months Government VED and vehicle first registration fee.

Buying – the new savings plan

BY STEVE LOADER

BRITAIN'S economy is limping towards recovery according to Government statistics released this week, but they also showed people are saving more despite weak interest rates.

And a stampede back to savings is the last thing the economy needs even if nobody needs a return to the profligacy that got us into this mess.

Against this backdrop though, buying a new car starts to make sense, because dealers are desperate to sell and that means hefty discounts – far greater than you can earn from years of saving.

Ah, you say, but a car costs thousands with or without discount. Yes, but most of us will buy one sooner or later

and you can make big savings after driving off the forecourt too by downsizing and opting for a model incurring lower road tax, fuel bills and other running costs.

If you have a car ten years old or older, you could save yourself £2,000 straight away with a grant from the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme launched in May and renewed this week (see later story), but there have been hefty discounts available on most new cars for months now.

Even if, after raiding the bank account and waving your 'wad' at the dealer, your cash does not stretch to the discounted asking price, there are other deals that can be factored in, such as zero or low rate finance. A generous warranty up to seven years is also worth having.

And don't forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any little add-ons you might fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying a car on 'run-out', where production or importing ceased a while ago. Choose the engine carefully too; with fuel prices volatile, you don't want to



MADE IN BRITAIN: There's a British bonus from buying the Nissan Qashqai (above) and Micra; and below left, the Kia cee'd SW family hatch and estate comes with seven-year warranty



trade one gas guzzler for another.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save you a fortune, even on depreciation, though cars always devalue – unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for offloading something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.

On the other hand, you might have lost tons on that big 4x4, but work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

Road tax also favours downsizing – gas guz-

zling executive models or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax from next year – but road tax is still a relatively small part of the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be tempted by tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version of the same car. The eco supermini might save you £105 in road tax over three years, but you will pay more for the car upfront.

So, check out conventional equivalents and don't dismiss petrol power; that fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users.

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Government's scrapheap banger takes on more fuel

BY **STEVE LOADER**

AFTER a few stutters and bangs, the Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive got off to a flying start, requiring a refuel at the Labour Party Conference.

The initial £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury was due to run out this month, instead of the expected cut-off date next March, but Business Secretary Lord Mandelson confirmed a top-up – enough to finance a further 100,000 deals on top of 200,000 already signed.

The offer is that the donor car or van going to the crusher must have been registered before 31 August 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

Carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappointment that they would be expected to foot half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting the Treasury would claw back some money through VAT on each car sale.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no big deal when interest rates are so low.



SALES BOOST: Government-sponsored Scrappage grants have boosted sales of new superminis like the Hyundai i20 and Chevrolet Aveo



On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and be tempted to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the exception of city cars and superminis, you

should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research; diesel cars now outsell petrol, but they cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you need to cover many miles to recover extra upfront outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines. You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Bourne Road motor dealer in Crayford is offering free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Robins and Day motor dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £29.99 and a service and MOT from £119.99

■ Motorline Renault motor dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older

■ Truegrip off-road fun in Canterbury is offering 15 minutes of karting for only £10

■ UK Stone stone merchant in Hersden near Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off Sandstone and limestone list price

■ Robins and Day motor dealer in Rochester is offering MOTs for £29.99 and a service and MOT from £119.99

■ Chambers Motorcycles in Maidstone is offering a free lock when you purchase a bike instore

■ SCG groundworks in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off landscaping

■ FG Barnes Motors in Maidstone is offering half price MOT with full service

■ Bannatyne Health Club in Ashford is offering memberships from as little as £29 a month

■ UK Stone stone merchants in Hersden nr Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off sandstone spheres

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Smarter driving, better saving

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax efficient car should be just part of your master plan to cut the motoring budget.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car on short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short car journeys also mean extra servicing and more engine wear.

If you must drive then follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly.



SENSIBLE SAVERS: Downsizing saves money, but sensible driving can knock more off your motoring bill for a Skoda Roomster mini-MPV (above) or Renault Clio (right)

BY **STEVE LOADER**

Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Check pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Feather the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof

racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and cleaner.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- For more eco tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community.



Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Silver Care Petrol or Diesel £139

■ KOS is offering the Doro 338 GSM Big button mobile phone for £99.99

■ Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub

■ KOS is offering the Pulsar Military Style Chronograph Watch. Save £20. Offer price £49.99, RRP £69.99

■ FG Barnes motors in Maidstone is offering £250 of accessories with Network Q purchases

■ KOS is offering Peers Hardy leather handbag and free umbrella for £19.99

■ Robins and Day motor dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99 and service and MOT from £119.99

■ Truegrip off-road fun in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off a 4X4 off-road driving experience

■ KOS is offering solar powered bird baths. Save £30. Offer price £119.99 RRP, £149.99

■ Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering a free day pass when you call into village leisure club and exchange your voucher – available from www.vouchersforkent.co.uk

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ROAD TAX FRIENDLY: the Vauxhall Corsa ecoFLEX is a much greener version of its mainstream counterparts, while all new Mazda3 models have lighter weight built in for lower emissions and fuel bills



See the tax-beating options

BY **STEVE LOADER**

WHATEVER you do, don't swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if

ROAD TAX BANDS

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Band G (151-160g/km) – £150
Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175
Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215
Band L (226-255g/km) – £405
Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

you plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling has taken the pressure off a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be



applied to larger cars, just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to the world's environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED

(Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO₂ emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering a free bottle of house wine when you present your voucher at time of booking your office Christmas lunch before November 1 – minimum table of four to qualify – available from www.vouchersforkent.co.uk

■ KOS is offering a porous seepage hose, so you can save time and money and use up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99, save £35 on RRP

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning services for £79.95, plus VAT

■ KOS is offering Severin Electric BBQ. Save £30 on offer price of £149.99, RRP £179.99

■ Baileys Nissan motor dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs

■ Living Out log cabin store, Chestfield, Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off everything

■ KOS is offering a £200 saving on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine, only £99.99 inc p&p, RRP £299.99

■ Chambers Motorcycles in Maidstone is offering free oil filter when you have your bike serviced in the service department

■ KOS is offering rechargeable micro luggage scales £19.99

■ KOS is offering the Extreme bra for £24.99

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Model shown may have optional extras available at an extra cost. 3 Years OE Finance available with 20% minimum deposit. Finance by GMAC UK plc, applicants must be aged 18 or over. Finance offer available at participating retailers. UK registered vehicles only. To be eligible for the Corsa Free Insurance offer Corsa SXi drivers must be aged between 19-35 and will need to have held a full UK/EU driving licence for at least 2 years. A compulsory excess of £250 will apply. Please note that additional excesses do apply in respect of young drivers and modifications. Vauxhall Motor Insurance is underwritten by Prudential Insurance plc, authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Free insurance in Northern Ireland is underwritten by AXA Insurance Limited, regulated by the Financial Services Authority. The free insolvency redundancy cover is optional and is offered to customers who take out a finance agreement with SAAFC from a participating PSA-authorised retailer. The cover, which is subject to eligibility, is for the first 24 months of the finance agreement (excluding the first 90 days), and is up to a maximum of 12 monthly payments. Terms and Conditions apply. Please refer to the further details of cover. The insurance is provided by Finance Insurance Company Limited. Other providers of redundancy cover are available. For more information see www.vauxhall.co.uk/finance. £2000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage Allowance criteria. All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all Retailer stocks. Offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 02.10.09 and 02.12.09, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions.

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Satisfaction comes from small lenders

PROPERTY owners are twice as happy with the service they get from small lenders as they are from big lenders, according to a new report.

And it is telephone and internet bank First Direct that emerges as offering the best service, with the highest customer satisfaction rating of 91 per cent, according to the report from consumer magazine Which? Money.

Overall rates of customer satisfaction were also up on last year.

In second place in the survey was One Account, which scored 77 per cent, with Coventry Building Society in third place with 75 per cent.

But consumers were least satisfied with Halifax, part of Lloyds Banking Group, which received only a 45 per cent satisfaction rating.

■ BY NICK AMES

Of the big lenders Nationwide came out the best. Other well known names such as Northern Rock, Abbey, Barclays and the Royal Bank of Scotland fared badly, with 47 per cent, 50 per cent, 52 per cent and 53 per cent respectively. Yorkshire Building Society, which was second last year with 79 per cent, dropped seven places and came out with just a 61 per cent rating this year.

Overall, 85 per cent of Which? members surveyed said they were either very or fairly satisfied with the customer service they received from their lender the last time they contacted it.

They were most satisfied with the clarity of their mortgage statements and how well they are kept up to date with changes in interest rates and were least satisfied with how

well they are kept informed about better deals that may be available to them, with 27 per cent of those surveyed saying they are dissatisfied with this aspect.

Despite the economic upheavals and the crisis in the property market the overall level of satisfaction has increased from 58 per cent last year to 62 per cent this year.

"In general lenders have done better on all the aspects of service measured," said a spokesman for Which?

The Council of Mortgage Lenders said it is pleased people are more satisfied with their mortgage lender than they were a year ago.

"It is good news that our consumers are increasingly satisfied. Lenders have been working hard, under challenging conditions, to communicate effectively with their borrowers and treat them fairly. This shows these efforts are bearing fruit," said CML director general Michael Coogan.



ON THE UP: Customer satisfaction is increasing, leaving less of us screaming into our phones

PROPERTY NEWS

Belief in steady prices emphasises confidence

MORE than three quarters of consumers are confident that UK house prices won't fall any further this year.

That is the key finding of the latest consumer confidence survey from Rightmove and is in sharp contrast to the same survey carried out in January, which revealed that around two-thirds of people felt house prices would be lower in the following 12 months.

Rightmove say they feel that such a

u-turn in public sentiment provides a strong indication that confidence is returning to the UK housing market.

A series of recent reports have been equally optimistic as to the market's recovery, including Rightmove's own House Price Index which shows an increase in average prices so far this year, and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors re-adjusting its price forecasts.

Commercial director Miles Shipside said: "With increasingly positive public sentiment supported by encouraging recent market reports, the UK property industry is now seeing a virtuous circle of confidence building upon confidence."

"This has positive and negative connotations. The sentiment of future buyers is a pre-cursor to a speedier recovery in depressed transaction levels."

Stamp on it to beat deadline

WITH the end of the stamp duty holiday looming, property experts Connells is expecting a surge of demand from purchasers who could save up to £1,750.

From December 31 the lowest stamp duty tax threshold will revert to £125,000.

"Add to this the fact that the chancellor has announced that VAT, currently at 15 per cent, will return to 17.5 per cent in January which will push up the price of furniture and appliances, and it makes a lot of sense to buy now," said Sean Connolly of Connells in Ashford.

But he said the problem is that there are simply not enough properties coming onto the market to meet demand.

In its latest House Price Index, Rightmove reports that 29 per cent more properties are

coming off the market than coming on.

Whilst this is not such good news for buyers, sellers can take advantage of both the lack of competition and the rush to beat the stamp duty deadline to get their sale done and dusted by the end of the year.

"We are working flat out to get our sellers' property onto the market and sold as soon as possible," said Mr Connolly. "We can't begin marketing a property until the Home Information Pack is in place, but our turnaround times are amongst the fastest in the country."

He added that if anyone is thinking of buying or selling a property worth between £125,000 and £175,000 they should take action now to be sure of meeting the stamp duty holiday deadline.

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* Applies to properties with a purchase price of up to £175,000.00 provided completion is effected by 31st December 2009.

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Kennington

£182,500

Three bedroom home offering two reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, en suite shower room and family bathroom, off road parking, gas central heating and double glazing.

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Challock Offers Over £325,000

Five bedroom property. Downstairs cloakroom, kitchen, conservatory, study, lounge, en suite and dressing room to master and bathroom. Double attached garage, off-road parking.

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Ashford

£104,950

Two bedroom apartment, intercome security entry, double glazing, central heating, lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, master bedroom with fitted wardrobes, three piece white bathroom suite.

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Willersborough

£150,000

Three bedroom end of terrace house, two reception rooms, ground floor cloakroom, popular Willersborough area, great potential.

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Kingsnorth

£189,995

Three bedroom townhouse. Lounge / dining room, kitchen, conservatory, downstairs cloakroom, enclosed rear garden, garage & off road parking. Remainder of 10 year NHBC guarantee.

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Ashford Asking Price £210,000

Four bedroom Victorian property. Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, shower room and to the second floor, bedroom four. Approx 80ft rear garden, central heating and double glazing.

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Ashford

£210,000

Three Bedroom Town House. Central location with quarter of mile of Ashford town centre and railway station. Garage. Double glazing. Gas central heating. Balcony. Private enclosed rear garden.

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Ashford

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Two bedroom ground floor maisonette. Own entrance Door. En-suite Shower room. Village location.

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Wye

£157,500

One double bedroom bungalow exclusively for over 60s with no onward chain. Conservatory. Gas fired central heating and double glazing.

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Kingsnorth

£214,995

Three Bedroom Detached House with en-suite shower room. Popular Park Farm location Conservatory. Integral garage. No Chain.

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Asking Price £250,000

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- Two Reception Rooms
- conservatory and garage.

£325,000

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Ashford

- Three bedroom bungalow
- Lounge, fitted kitchen / diner,
- bathroom, gardens. No chain.

£249,995

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Woodchurch

- Park Home Bungalow
- Two bedrooms, lounge,
- Lovely rear garden

£160,000

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Ashford

- Two bedroom terraced house,
- extended kitchen,
- walking distance to town

£145,000

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- Two bedroom apartment
- sought after area.
- Lovely views, parking,

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Ashford

- Four bedrooms, master Ensuite
- through lounge with French doors
- Dining room, kitchen, utility room.

£259,995

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Smeeth

- Three bedroom bungalow,
- no onward chain,
- off road parking.

OIEO £230,000

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Willesborough

- Three bedroom house,
- gas fire central heating,
- double glazing, garden

OIEO £150,000

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Ashford

- Two bedroom terrace
- garage and parking,
- conservatory.

£132,000

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Kennington



Asking Price £179,995

Well presented bungalow. Two receptions. Double glazing and central heating. 80'ft garden. Garage.

Kennington



£199,995

Modern Town House, requested location, three bedrooms, two reception rooms.

Ashford



£214,995

Three bedroom link family home, conservatory, lounge, kitchen, downstairs WC, en-suite shower room.

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- 3 BEDROOMS - ENSUITE TO MASTER
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- GARAGE WITH PRIVATE DRIVEWAY

Marsham £179,500



- TWO BEDS - TWO RECEPTIONS
- CH - UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- POPULAR VILLAGE
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Park Farm £157,500



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Orchard Heights £217,000



- 3 BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
- ENSUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM
- LOUNGE WITH BAY WINDOW
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South Willesborough £112,500



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- 3 BED MID-TERRACE HOUSE
- LOUNGE & REAR LOBBY
- KITCHEN/DINING ROOM
- CLOAKROOM/W.C

Faversham Road £214,995



- 3 BED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
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Singleton £72,500



- ECONOMICAL AND EASY TO RUN HOME
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- THREE BEDROOM END OF TERRACE
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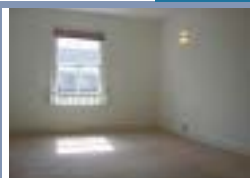
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Surtees Close £550pcm



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Kings Prospect £550pcm



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- Modern Interior

Violet Way £625pcm



- 2 Bedroom apartment
- Kitchen with appliances
- Lounge with Juliet balcony

East Lodge Road £650pcm



- 2 Bedroom House
- Double Bedrooms
- Popular location
- Kitchen with white goods

Gordon Close £650pcm



- 2 Bedroom House
- Off Road Parking
- Kitchen/Diner
- Close to town and train station

Old Ash Close £675pcm



- 3 Bedroom House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Dining Room

Merlin Way £695pcm



- 3 bedroom house
- Semi-detached
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Allocated parking

Gordon Close £700pcm



- 3 Bedroom House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Off Road Parking
- Close to Town Centre

John Dutton Way £750pcm



- 3 Bedroom house
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AUCTION

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Day One - The Hilton Brighton Metropole - Tuesday, 3rd November- 11am.

Day Two - The Rose Bowl, Southampton - Wednesday, 4th November - 11am.

Day Three - The Ramada Hotel & Resort, Maidstone - Thursday, 5th November - 11am.



CLIFFE, ROCHESTER
Residential/Commercial for Modernisation
Guide: £95-105,000



CHATHAM
Two Flats for Investment/Occupation
Guide: £55-65,000



GILLINGHAM
Vacant Three Bedroom House
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WOOLWICH, SE28
Industrial Unit in Good Location
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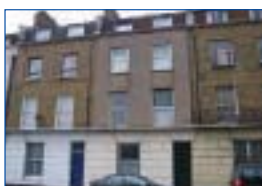
HIGH STREET, CHATHAM
Former Theatre & Bank Chambers with Potential
Guide: £380-400,000



KENNINGTON, ASHFORD
Planning for Two Chalet Bungalows
Guide: £60-70,000



WINGHAM, CANTERBURY
Village Premises with Two Shops, Accommodation and Detached Cottage
Guide: £400-420,000



HERNE BAY
Freehold Block of Five Flats
Guide: £340-360,000



FOLKESTONE
Freehold Residential Investment
Guide: £95-105,000



HERNE BAY
Freehold Block of Five Flats for Invest.
Guide: £300-320,000



GRAVESEND
Restaurant/Upper Parts for Investment
Guide: £200-220,000



CENTRAL MAIDSTONE
Offices & Parking next to Railway Station
Guide: £80-100,000



SITTINGBOURNE
House for Modernisation
Guide: £70-75,000



TONGE
Rural Semi with Large Plot
Guides: £85-90,000



CRANBROOK
Bungalow - Planning for two Dwellings
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MINSTER-ON-SEA
House for Repair or Redevelopment
Guide: £90-100,000



SEVENOAKS
Freehold Ground Rents
Guide: £50-55,000



UPNOR (HIGH STREET)
Period Cottage for Restoration
Guide: £95-100,000



GRAVESEND
Town Centre Retail Premises
Guide: £65-70,000



HERSDEN
Commercial Investment
Guide: £110-120,000



ROCHESTER
Three Flats for Investment
Guide: £140-150,000



CHATHAM
Two Flats for Investment, Plus Barn
Guide: £90-100,000



GILLINGHAM
Two Flats for Investment
Guide: £40-45,000 Each



HOO, ROCHESTER
Two Flats for Investment
Guides: £45-50,000 & £50-55,000



HYTHE
Semi for Complete Refurbishment
Guide: £115-125,000



CHATHAM
Workshops & Parking - Conversion Potential
Guide: £75-80,000



SOUTHFLEET, GRAVESEND
Brick Built Stables with Potential
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HUNTER ROAD £750 pcm



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SOMERSET ROAD £550 pcm



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CHARING HILL, CHARING £499 pcm



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HEVER GARDENS £550 pcm


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NOW LET



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WOMEN seeking men

MY EVERYTHING

Ashford based, bubbly and fun single mum, 23yr old, curvy build, brunette. I like reading and socialising. WLTm like minded male. Box 457472

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

NOT YOUR

BROWNEYED GIRL, BUT...
Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

IS ANYONE OUT THERE?

31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTm cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving lady female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 453712

GOOD LUCK CHARM

Sporty female, 34, 5ft2, likes the gym, beach walks, Tennis and cycling, wltm similar male in his 30s for friendship in Eastbourne. Box 453712

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

A FAIRYTALE ENDING!

Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, winning and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding, and WLTm honest, reliable man. Box 451311

SOMETHING LASTING

Professional single mum, 37, own home, looking for a man for friendship, hopefully a permanent relationship. Halesham Box 455221

BE MINE

Honest and caring woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding. Maidstone. Box 456159

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

WAITING FOR YOU

Curvy single mum, 38, 5ft7, romantic, loyal, loving and genuine, likes swimming, theatre, live meals, dining out, seeking a LTR with a like-minded male. Rochester Box 458566

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Audrey here, I live in Seaford, and WLTm caring man, I'm fun loving, loyal, honest, adventurous, and love animals, cooking, music, film, country-side. Box 872159

BELLA ISABEL

Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTm a gent to socialise with. Tunbridge Wells Box 878250

ACTIVE TYPE

Lively, energetic fun loving mum, 42, 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair, hazel eyes, WLTm honest, fun, mixed race/black gent, for lasting relationship. Box 451819

LOVE IS ALL AROUND

Happy-go-lucky, bubbly blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley Box 454517

HELLO EVERYONE!

Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTm a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford Box 454569

TALL ORDER

Curvy lady, 5ft9, 43yrs old, blonde hair/green eyes. I live in Deal in Kent, I'm down-to-earth and like being out and about. Box 456020

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY

Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gosh, looking for a man with no issues and gosh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

WANNA RIDE WITH YOU

Curvaceous lady, 40, 5ft8, long curly hair, into motorbikes! Single mum, seeks fun-loving bike fan for rides into the sunset. Eastbourne. Box 458787

PERFECT MATCH

Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine Box 453374

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, wltm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

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RECIPE FOR ROMANCE

Single mother, recently separated, 41, 5ft9, slim, blonde/blue eyes. WLTm fun loving man with GSOH, someone honest and genuine, I love cooking, cycling, outdoors. Folkestone. Box 457913

THE WIT TO WOO!

Kent female, 40, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862

BETWEEN US

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?

Shy but confident-once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

TLC ON OFFER

Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVD's, wltm like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434

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Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTm a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford Box 454569

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Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine Box 453374

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, wltm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

HOW YOU DOING?

Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with, St Leonards-on-Sea Box 459128

SWEET AS HONEY

Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing. Looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465

LOVE TO MEET YOU

Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy. I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun lady. Aylesford Box 428464

TOO MUCH TO ASK?

Divorced lady, 45, young looking, blonde, 5ft5, I'm well travelled and have many interests. WLTm black or mixed race, loving man for LTR. Chatham. Box 459246

STARTING OVER

Divorced 45yr old cuddly woman, brown eyes/hair, likes swimming, animals, cinema, soaps, the beach. WLTm a honest, non-smoking man for friendship, maybe more. Ashford Box 878141

FRIENDSHIP FIRST

Understanding, caring female, 45, 5ft4, medium build, brown hair, likes cinema, animals, music, romantic pubs, seeking male for cuddles, hugs and more. Box 444873

FROM THIS MOMENT

Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, N/S, affectionate, loyal and caring, looking for a male, 40-45, N/S, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford. Box 454591

ETERNALLY YOURS

Easygoing woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build. WLTm genuine, happy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635

HEART AND SOUL

Easy-going single mum, 46, 5ft4, size 12/14, likes bowling, gardening, swimming, looking for a man, 35-49, slim/medium build with similar interests. Maidstone Box 454176

MY PRINCE?

Not-just-for-xmas dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armour! East Sussex area. Box 872961

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy Box 425952

ARE YOU LOVING & CARING?

Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company Box 434096

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easy-going single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

TIME ON OUR HANDS

62yr old lady, slim, 5ft2, short brown hair, never act my age! Love Motown, parks, beaches and home life, seeks fun-loving gent. Tunbridge Wells. Box 458750

TALL ORDER

Attractive blonde, 60s, with a young outlook on life, slim build, likes animals, walking, meals, looking for a tall man for friendship, possible LTR. Hastings. Box 456604

IN THE COUNTRY

Young looking 72yr old female, slim, with blonde hair/blue eyes. I'd like to share my social life with like minded gent. I like country pubs. Box 457491

Women seeking men

A LITTLE AFFECTION

Intelligent, cheeky, emotional female, 44, WLTm similar woman, 35-65, for walks, museum/art trips, winning/dining, theatre, good conversation & friendship first, maybe more. Pref Eastbourne area. Box 873058

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CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 417100

NOTHING VENTURED...

Hi there, I'm a Sussex based, 51yr old woman, I love eating out, historical sites etc. Looking for kind gent for friendship, evenings out, maybe more. Box 459181

LOVELY BUBBLY

Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

BRING ME TO LIFE

Lighthearted female, 52, 5ft2, medium build, loves walking, socialising, swimming, holidays, looking for friendship maybe more. Box 453832

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE

Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTm similar loving male. Box 443642

GREETINGS!

Canterbury Lady, 56 seeking special genuine, fun loving gent, 50-60, to enjoy life with and share interests such as walking, cinema, theatre, dining out, holidays. Box 873039

SMART MOVE

Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854

LIVE IT UP

GOLDEN TICKET
Christian female, 57, looking to meet a nice man with gosh to go to the cinema and have fun with. St Leonards-on-Sea Box 449225

HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO

Londoner new to the area, 57, 5ft5, slim attractive blonde, seeking a man for serious relationship and lasting happiness. Box 445857

PISCES OR CAPRICORN?

Star-struck lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea, WLTm tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a mate for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

ONLY LOVE

Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc. Looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791

LOOKING FOR PRINCE CHARMING

Pretty, bubbly girl in her 60s love romantic meals, gardens, and the arts looking for caring gentlemen. East Sussex. Box 458169

LOTS OF TLC TO GIVE

Happy-go-lucky lady, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, likes dancing, walking and holidays abroad, looking for a like-minded male for friendship, maybe a LTR. Box 452897

TIME ON OUR HANDS

62yr old lady, slim, 5ft2, short brown hair, never act my age! Love Motown, parks, beaches and home life, seeks fun-loving gent. Tunbridge Wells. Box 458750

TALL ORDER

Attractive blonde, 60s, with a young outlook on life, slim build, likes animals, walking, meals, looking for a tall man for friendship, possible LTR. Hastings. Box 456604

IN THE COUNTRY

Young looking 72yr old female,

MOTORS NEWS



Little Smart special is just height of fashion

SMART has launched this special 'Edition Highstyle' with loads of luxury features to complement a trendy chocolate brown/metallic finish.

Available solely as a coupé and building on the two-seat city car's flagship Passion specification, only 215 are available for the UK, priced from £10,900.

Features include 12-spoke, 15-inch alloys, matt silver interior details and leather: heated leather metallic silver seats, upper and lower dashboards, three-spoke steering wheel and gearknob.



Scrap and escape in a cheaper VW Campervan

LONG seen as a producer of archetypal campervans, VW may have opened a rich seam of new business.

Noting the Government's decision to extend £2,000 Scrappage discounts, it has launched a package allowing owners to scrap a 10+ year-old 'banger' and take off on their travels for three years in an 'all mod cons' VW Caravelle California camper (pictured). It costs as little as £315 a month on a personal contract purchase deal – while stocks last ahead of a new-look California launched in January.



Magazine finding Nemo is the most economical

NEVER mind controversial 'official' fuel consumption figures, the Citroën Nemo has publicly proved itself the UK's most miserly van.

A Nemo SensoDrive 1.4HDi returned an impressive 75.8 mpg in an independent MPG Marathon organised by Fleet World magazine over a 358.5 mile event to retain its 'Britain's Most Economical Van' title.

The Nemo's economy was attributed to its quick-shifting SensoDrive automated manual gearbox.



A SPORTY LITTLE NUMBER: Alfa's racy three-door MiTo is ideal 'downsizer' to replace a sporting gaz-guzzler and with £2,000 scrappage discount can cost only £8,995

Alfa's sporting chance to downsize with the MiTo

ROAD TEST ALFA MiTo

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Driving appeal | ★★★★★ |
| Image | ★★★★★ |
| Space | ★★★★★ |
| Value | ★★★★★ |
| Running costs | ★★★★★ |
| Reliability | ★★★★★ |
| Green rating | ★★★★★ |

pairing of Italy's fashion capital Milano and resurgent motor city of Torino.

The feel of the MiTo also matches its style. It's not perfect, but it is great fun and selectable 'DNA' drive settings – Dynamic, Normal and All-Weather – deliver three cars in one.

The default for keen drivers will be Dynamic, which weights up the steering throttle/engine response; Normal does what it says on the tin; and All-Weather is an option all cars should have.

However, powertrain choice is crucial. Our test car had the 1.6-litre diesel option – a bit like asking a prop forward to ride a racehorse in heavy going. Diesels just don't make the most of the MiTo's nimble grace and style. It was reassuring that the free-revving 1.4-litre petrol models – turbocharged and unblown – have grabbed more than 90 per cent of Lipscomb's MiTo sales since launch earlier this year.

Do we need to talk about the cabin on a car this stylish? Only to say it looks as classy as the exterior, but also works well.

I don't think anyone should have to pay for the convenience of split folding rear seats though, and it can feel a little claustrophobic in the back, particularly for kids.



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ALFA-ROMERO

GTV SPORTS COUP, 1998, 98 (r) alpha Romeo 2.0 16v gtv sports coup, stunning metallic merlot coachwork with contrasting black half leather trim, just 89000 miles, large service history, long mot, long road tax, power steering, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, central locking, alarm, immobiliser, air bags, tinted glass, on board computer, abs brakes, alloy wheels, sony cd hi-fi, etc. etc. private plate included in sale (valued at £1200) stunning condition for age, a true classic Alfa. 98 (r) Alfa romero 2.0 gtv sports coup, low mileage, service history £2695, metallic merlot, AUDI

A4, 2.5tdi sport multicronic 163 bhp auto, 2004, caribbean blue pearl with grey leather sport seats, 96000 miles, £10850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

A4, S4 Quattro cabriolet, rv04uhh, remote central locking, immobiliser, full leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, auto lighting, front fog lamps, electric windows, power hood, electric mirrors, dual climate zones, cd player, radio, 18" alloys, 4x4, red, 53000 miles, £13999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

A4, 2.0 TDI TDV SE 5DR, cd04mcd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, cloth upholstery, climate control, colour coding body, electric mirrors, insurance group:12, grey, 52000 miles, £11495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

A6, 2.0 tdi bse, 2006, silver metallic with black half leather sport seat, 54000 miles, £12950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE) £2695, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

BMW

1 Series, 120d ES 5dr, cf05kg, remote central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, cd player, climate control, electric mirrors, electric windows, 16" alloys, red, 65000 miles, £8499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

1 Series, 118d Edition ES, charlie, only 5800 miles, manufacturers upr, upgraded alloys, rain sensitive windshield, cd player, £15995, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 116i SPORT, hn05jk, only 47148 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, aerosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, runflat tyres, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, full motor-sports bodykit, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, motorsport front & rear spoilers, m-tec steering wheel & gear lever, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports seats with under-high support, sports suspension, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, ** sold with a minimum of 6 months mot on all vehicles over 36 months old & comes complete with a comprehensive parts + labour warranty *** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, le mans blue, £13990, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 118i ES AUTO, m0t6go, only 44303 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, aerosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, runflat tyres, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, full child safety window lock, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, multi airbag system, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports suspension, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, **, sydney blue, £10997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 118i ES AUTO, m0t6go, only 44303 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, aerosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, runflat tyres, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, full child safety window lock, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, multi airbag system, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports suspension, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, **, sydney blue, £10997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 120d M SPORT SAT NAV, rf06wd, only 58011 miles, manufacturers service history, sat nav, upgraded alloys, cd player, electric folding wing mirrors, xenons, lumbar support, cruise control, voice control, bmw assist, bluetooth, loudspeaker system, comfort package, aerosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, runflat tyres, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full motor-sports bodykit, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, black, £13997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 118d M SPORT, sy06awx, only 43005 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, aerosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, full child safety window lock, full motor-sports bodykit, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports seats with under-third support, sports suspension, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, ** sold with a minimum of 6 months mot on all vehicles over 36 months old & comes complete with a comprehensive parts + labour warranty *** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, le mans blue, £13990, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 118d SE, ao08pgv, only 14072 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, aerosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, drivers central armrest, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, ** sold with a minimum of 6 months mot on all vehicles over 36 months old ** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, black, £16997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 Series, 116i SPORT, hn05jk, only 47148 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, aerosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, runflat tyres, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, full motor-sports bodykit, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, motorsport front & rear spoilers, m-tec steering wheel & gear lever, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports seats with under-high support, sports suspension, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, ** sold with a minimum of 6 months mot on all vehicles over 36 months old & comes complete with a comprehensive parts + labour warranty *** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, le mans blue, £13990, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte, ix55oob, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, child locks, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, radio cassette, visit our website for details of 50 simiAR Cars. ice blue metallic, 11000 miles, £5490, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600LXD Refrigerated Van, kr54rhe, central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, barn doors, abs, air bag, power steering, radio, gae equipment, gpr insulation, white, 17000 miles, £5495, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600 LXD, ip56vxc, remote central locking, cloth upholstery head restraints, power steering, air bag, ply-lined, barn doors, electric windows, electric mirrors, white, 30000 miles, £4245, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, 295180, cd player, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, brand new delivery mileage, gpr lined, hubbard fridge standby available if required (optional extra), over 50 fridge vans in stock. BHRV.co.uk, white, 15 miles, £9595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, fn04zvw, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, air bag, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio cassette, refrigerated display, heated display, low bmw assist, bluetooth, 0 miles, £8995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, w173kno, large fridge, large oven, hot & cold water, ambient section, white, 77000 miles, £6995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Lx 800 HDI Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, kp56fuv, side load door, cd player, air bag, abs, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, gpr lined, hubbard fridge electric standby available if required (optional extra), white, 18000 miles, £7495, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, HDI 600 LX Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, ay57xof, cd player, electric windows, air bag, abs, remote central locking, power steering, electric mirrors, gpr lined, gae fridge, electric, white, 16000 miles, £7595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, idk5wez, satellite navigation, power steering, remote central locking, immobiliser, electric mirrors, electric windows, abs, air bag, bluetooth, cd player, brand new, immediate delivery, gpr lined, gae equipment, electric standby available if required, over fifty fridge vans in stock, www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 1 miles, £10995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

FIAT

DOBLO, 8v Dynamic HR, yx57pwn, grey, 1700 miles, £7495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.9 Multijet Dynamic 5dr [120] Diesel Estate, rv58jvf, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, beige metallic, 17250 miles, £8998, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Bonhoffa Hot & Cold Catering Vending Truck, av05Onw, bonhoffa conversion, hot cabinet, cold cabinet, 3x access hatches, hand wash, led internal lighting, white, 29000 miles, £11995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

DUCATO, 35 Lwb 120 Multijet Refrigerated Chiller, rv550fg, due in soon, side load door, dual passenger seat, cd player, air bag, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, gpr lined, hubbard fridge, electric standby available if required, over fifty fridge vans in stock, www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 20000 miles, £11995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, ea06xop, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloy wheels, trip computer, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, 3x3 point rear seat belts, crossover black metallic, 26950 miles, £6996, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, g09bka, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, 3x3 point rear seat belts, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, full size spare wheel, front head restraints, folding rear seats, service indicator, body coloured bumpers, new wave blue metallic, 2000 miles, £8998, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, bq56ypk, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, 3x3 point rear seat belts, rear wiper, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, juggle grey metallic, 3074 miles, £7987, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, lm08vue, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloy wheels, radio/cd, trip computer, side airbags, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, cloth seat trim, isofix child seat anchor points, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, full size spare wheel, folding rear seats, service indicator, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, juggle grey metallic, 3074 miles, £7987, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, ak06xnp, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloy wheels, trip computer, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, 3x3 point rear seat belts, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, front head restraints, folding rear seats, service indicator, full size spare wheel, delivery mileage, isofix child seat anchor points, rear armrest, juggle grey metallic, 32000 miles, £5485, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, g06xmh, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, full size spare wheel, steel wheels, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, rear wiper, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, cloth seat trim, isofix child seat anchor points, front head restraints, service indicator, height adjustable drivers seat, new orleans blue metallic, 9500 miles, £5555, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, g06ukz, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, full size spare wheel, steel wheels, rear armrest, 3x3 point rear seat belts, rear wiper, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, cloth seat trim, isofix child seat anchor points, front head restraints, service indicator, height adjustable drivers seat, juggle grey metallic, 30620 miles, £5995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE Punto, ad56fwh, immobiliser, central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, 16" alloys, blue, 26000 miles, £5999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

PUNTO, Sporting 16v 3dr, 1459461, power steering, cd player, electric front windows, air conditioning, remote central locking, abs, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, radio, electric mirrors, adjustable steering column, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, folding rear seats, colour coded body, twin air bags, central locking, 15" alloys, titanium grey met. 40000 miles, £3999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

PUNTO, ELX 16v Speedgear 5dr auto, y1y18m, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, stereo, gold, 50000 miles, £2999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

PUNTO, ELX 3dr, y435jvx, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, cd player, radio, blue, 70000 miles, £2499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.8 TDCi Zetec, 2009, vision, 0 Miles, £13795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr, hn08hhr, 18 alloys, rain sensing wipers, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, insurance group:8, grey, 25693 miles, £12495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr, e558ypp, 18 alloys, front direct vehicle, full leather trim, rain sensing wipers, sports pack, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, body kit, central locking, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, multi function steering wheel, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, spoiler, rear headrests, traction control, insurance group:8, black, 26100 miles, £13500, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 5dr, ap08nfn, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, foglights, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, insurance group:8, grey, 25693 miles, £12495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Titanium 110 5dr [DPF], ea58ak, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, colour coding body, insurance group:8, blue, 3741 miles, £14990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8 Zetec 5dr - SPORTS PACE ZETEC, ng08hze, zinc, privacy glass, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, colour coding body, insurance group:8, blue, 3741 miles, £14990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi ZETEC 5DR, oe08eof, esp, privacy glass, quickclear, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, radio/cd, seatback tables, tinted glass, traction control, insurance group:7, silver, 25500 miles, £10695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi ZETEC 5DR, n0l8ysv, esp, privacy glass, quickclear, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, folding rear seats, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, rear headrests, remote locking, seatback tables, tinted glass, traction control, insurance group:7, silver, 26668 miles, £10695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 2.0TDCi Titanium 5dr, ef58uc, climate control air conditioning, dvd touch screen sat nav, privacy glass, rear park assist, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, central locking, electric windows, electric windows, remote locking, radio/cd, insurance group:10, black, 3562 miles, £16990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6 Zetec 5dr - PRIVACY GLASS, g0j8xfz, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, tinted glass, traction control, insurance group:6, silver, 21672 miles, £10495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr - SPORT PACE 3, ng08hko, partial leather trim, heated front seats, sports suspension, body coloured rear spoiler, esp, folding mirrors, sony stereo, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, body kit, central locking, colour coding body, colour coding interior, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar support, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, multi function steering wheel, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, spoiler, rear headrests, traction control, insurance group:8, black, 26100 miles, £13500, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 TDCi TITANIUM 5DR, ef58kuu, metallic avalon, reversing camera, leather trim seats, partial leather trim, dvd nav, central locking, ford direct vehicle, titanium appearance pack, 18 alloy wheels, ford power start, privacy glass, abs, alloy wheels, cruise control, front armrest, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, rear armrest, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, alarm, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, front electric windows, front fog lights, front head restraints, heated door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat, isofix child seat anchor points, pas, rear electric windows, rear wiper, remote central locking, solid paint, steering wheel rake adjustment, steering wheel reach, white, 8895 miles, £20995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 TDCi TITANIUM 5DR 2WD, ek0d9sh, quickclear heated screen, bluetooth handsfree and voice control, ford direct vehicle, titanium appearance pack, 18 alloys, 2yrs roadside assistance, abs, alloy wheels, cruise control, front armrest, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, rear armrest, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, alarm, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, front electric windows, front fog lights, front head restraints, heated door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat, isofix child seat anchor points, pas, rear electric windows, rear wiper, remote central locking, solid paint, steerin, blue, 6880 miles, £21495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 TDCi TITANIUM 5DR 2WD, ek0d9sh, quickclear heated screen, bluetooth handsfree and voice control, ford direct vehicle, titanium appearance pack, 18 alloys, 2yrs roadside assistance, abs, alloy wheels, cruise control, front armrest, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, rear armrest, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, alarm, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, front electric windows, front fog lights, front head restraints, heated door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat, isofix child seat anchor points, pas, rear electric windows, rear wiper, remote central locking, solid paint, steerin, blue, 6880 miles, £21495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr****TOUCH SCREEN SAT NAV****, iv58kdo, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, auto lights and wipers, climate control air conditioning, electric heated door mirrors, esp traction control, climate control, central locking, heated front windscreen, privacy glass, rear park assist, central locking, insurance group:10, black, 7448 miles, £19990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr 2WD REVERSING CAMERA LEATHER, oe09pizt, titanium convenience pack, titanium appearance pack, dvd touch screen navigation, ford direct vehicle, bluetooth with usb, panoramic roof, xenon headlights, full heated leather trim, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, 18 alloys, 2yrs roadside assistance, park assist, power folding door mirrors, privacy glass, rain sensing wipers, rear park assist, insurance group:10, black, 6538 miles, £21995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr****SAT NAV, PARKING CAMERA****, ef58kuu, parking camera****, metallic avalon, dvd touch screen navigation, reverse parking camera, titanium appearance pack, titanium convenience pack, 18 alloys, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, blue, 5520 miles, £20995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr****BLUETOOTH, APPEARANCE PACK****, gn09buu, appearance pack****, balance of 3 year warranty, 18 alloys, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, colour coding interior, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, heated screen, limited slip differential, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, smc-one of the largest ford main dealer groups with over00 ford cars and commercials in stock today all ford vehicles under three years old come with the balance of three years ford warranty and roadside assistance.low rate finance available.excellent prices paid for part ex, blue, 4000 miles, £11795, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 TDCi TITANIUM 5DR 2WD, oe09shp, quickclear heated screen, bluetooth handsfree and voice control, ford direct vehicle, titanium appearance pack, 18 alloys, 2yrs roadside assistance, abs, alloy wheels, cruise control, front armrest, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, rear armrest, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, alarm, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, front electric windows, front fog lights, front head restraints, heated door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat, isofix child seat anchor points, pas, rear electric windows, rear wiper, remote central locking, solid paint, steering wheel rake adjustment, steering wheel reach, white, 8895 miles, £20995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr*PREMIUM NAV+REVERSING CAMERA, ea58nuw, metallic vision, premium navigation, ford direct vehicle, titanium appearance pack, 18 alloys, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, 2yrs roadside assistance, privacy glass, rear park assist, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, metallic paintwork, blue, 14441 miles, £20995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCi Titanium X 5dr [140] Auto****AUTOMATIC****, kr58zgd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, grey, 9000 miles, £17295, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr, n0l8yrv, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, colour coding body, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, radio/cd, black, 14000 miles, £14400, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.2 TDCi Titanium X 5dr, ef58cwk, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, insurance group:12, silver, 3762 miles, £18495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCi TITANIUM X 5DR [140]AUTOMATIC DIESEL, ea58vwh, monodot, ford direct vehicle, dvd touch screen navigation, bluetooth handsfree and voice control, 18 alloys, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, cruise control, front armrest, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, rear armrest, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, alarm, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, electrically adjustable drivers seat, front electric windows, front fog lights, front head restraints, heated door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat, isofix child seat anchor points, pas, rear electric windows, remote central locking, solid paint, steering wheel rake adjustment, st, silver, 7114 miles, £18495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.2 TDCi Titanium X Sport 5dr - NAV & LEATHER, gk09oee, dvd nav, body coloured rear spoiler, front and rear park assist, ford power start, variable heated front seats, bi-xenon headlights, bluetooth hands-free phone system, 18 alloy wheels, alloy wheels, heated seats, radio/cd multichanger, auto headlights, auto wipers, esp, folding mirrors, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, anti theft system, body kit, central locking, child locks, child seats, climate control, colour coding body, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, multi function steer, silver, 12500 miles, £20995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

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Senior & General Appointments 62-64

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required for a training company based in Womensworld, just outside Canterbury. Duties to include telephone, filing and general administration. Monday - Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm. Please telephone Jeanette on 01227 833000 or via email Jeanette.Saunders@amactraining.co.uk

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
- All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
- All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
- Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
- Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permission must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
- Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
- A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
- No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
- Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
- Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
- All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
- Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
- a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
- Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
- Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
- All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
- The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
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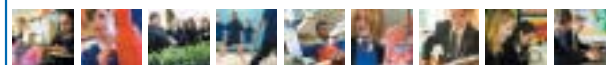
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AMBITION: Kelly Holmes at Kent School Games launch

Kelly's hope to take Kent School Games national

DAME Kelly Holmes says she is trying to encourage the rest of the country to follow in the footsteps of the successful Kent School Games, *writes Glenn Pearson.*

Kent's double gold medallist attended the launch of the 2010 Kent School Games last week, which is intended to give more than 30,000 young people across the county a chance to compete in as many as 38 different sports.

The Games were launched at Hayesbrook Sports College in Tonbridge on Thursday with local heats set to start later this month, culminating in finals events in July next year.

KENT SCHOOL GAMES

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter, the man who came up with the idea for an event believed to be the biggest school sports event in Europe, talked of a continued decline of sport in schools over the last ten years and how that needed to be rectified.

After the success of the inaugural Games in 2008, Holmes said there have been discussions with other counties and the ideal scenario would be for a national school games to coincide with London 2012.

"It's a massive event," she said. "There's nothing like it in the UK and I'm pushing for this to be replicated in other counties so we can have a national final in a national school games."

"It's at quite an early stage, but in the nearby counties such as Essex and Surrey, they are very keen on the model, because the model is very good. Hopefully we can replicate it, but obviously it takes quite a lot of people to get something like this going. If we can start getting other counties doing it by 2011 with a big final for 2012, that would be fantastic."

Club's shield hopes over after penalties

KENNINGTON'S Kent Intermediate Shield hopes are over for this season after a penalty shoot-out defeat to Crockenhill.

James Hawkins' equaliser forced the game into extra time with the score 1-1 at the end of 90 minutes. Both sides went in search of a winning goal in extra time, but the game was decided on penalties.

Crockenhill held their nerve in the shootout to win 4-1, which confirmed Kennington's exit from the competition.

Elsewhere, Tenterden Town are still searching for their first win of the Kent County League season after 2-0 defeat to Borden Village.



LOSING START: Ashford men's (in red) 1st XI lost their opening game of the season

Defensive mistakes cost Ashford dear

ASHFORD men's 1st XI kicked off the new South Hockey League season with a narrow defeat in a five-goal thriller against Havant.

Chris Smith's side, who narrowly avoided relegation last season, made a positive start with goals from Rob Playford and Adam Fox.

However, Ashford's defence struggled to cope with the attacking threat of Havant and conceded three goals, which left the hosts empty handed at the final whistle, as they went down 3-2.

There was better luck for Ashford's second team as they kicked off the new Kent League season with a 2-2 draw at Gillingham Anchorians.

Ashford's 1st XI are back in action this week with a trip to West Hampstead.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture: NICK DUNN

RETIREMENTS: Leon Camier aimed to impress in his second World Superbikes outing but electrical problems prevented him from clinching top-ten places in both races at Magny Cours

Electrical problems end Camier's World Superbikes hopes for now

SUPERBIKES

■ BY TOM HOWARD

LEON Camier's surprise wild card appearance in the World Superbike Championship ended in disappointment after two retirements at France's Magny Cours circuit.

The newly-crowned British Superbike champion joined the works Aprilia team to replace the injured Shinya Nakano for the race.

The opportunity was well received by the Ashford rider, who is planning on making the jump to the World Superbike Championship for 2010.

It was only his second race in the series, following a wild card outing with Airwaves Yamaha earlier this season.

With a new bike and circuit to learn, the 23-year-old had his work cut out to impress the team owners. Despite his lack of experience, he

managed to secure 16th place on the grid and showed his potential in warm-up by setting the fourth fastest time.

Camier made a steady start to race one and was in 17th place at the end of the opening lap.

He soon got to grips with the circuit and surged up the field and was involved in a battle for ninth place with fellow Brit and former teammate Shane Byrne.

With three laps remaining, Camier's hopes of a top-ten finish were dashed as an electrical problem on the bike forced him into retirement.

The second race saw him make a better start and he was in the thick of the action. He moved

to as high as eighth, but once again he was denied a race finish as another technical problem with the Aprilia bike saw him retire.

He told britishsuperbike.com: "I'm really gutted not to have got results for the Aprilia team. We've not had a problem all weekend with the bike and then in both races we had to retire."

"I was feeling good out there and was happy at the progress I made in both races and was pushing for a top-ten position."

"I've learnt so much and it's been a real roller-coaster of a weekend. I just hope that I can qualify a little better at Portimao and get two good results there for the Aprilia."

It is believed Camier will ride in the final round of the series in Portugal later this month. However, next up for the Kent rider is the final round of this year's British Superbike Championship at Cheshire's Oulton Park this weekend.

Nuts and Bolts slump to fifth defeat in Surrey

FOOTBALL

BY YOURASHFORD REPORTER

Merstham 4

Gordon 24, 47, Bennett 56, Hamsher 85

Ashford Town 0

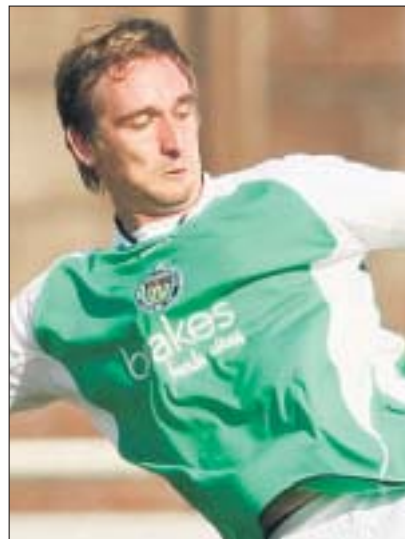
ASHFORD Town's defensive frailties were highlighted once again after a second heavy defeat in as many games at Merstham on Saturday.

Two games ago, Ashford looked to have turned a corner after securing their first league win against Whyteleafe, but two disappointing performances have seen the Nuts & Bolts concede nine goals in two games.

Manager Steve Lovell made two significant changes to his side for the game, with goalkeeper Darren Ibrahim making way for reserve stopper Dan Mason. Danny Lye moved into midfield with John Ralph coming into the defence for Bryan Pearce.

After starting brightly with Paul Jones going close early on, Town found themselves behind after 24 minutes. Michael Gordon cut in from the right and fired a low shot, which went right through Mason and into the net.

Ashford were dealt another blow minutes later with defender John Guest forced off with



HEAD INJURY: Ashford's problems were compounded when John Guest was forced to go off in the first half

a head injury. Despite the injury, Ashford enjoyed their best spell of the half and came close to an equaliser through Lye. The midfielder was unable to poke the ball home from Mitchell Sherwood's header across goal.

Any hopes of a quick equaliser at the start of the second half were extinguished just two

Ashford Town starting XI



Subs used: Ashmore (Guest 39), Norman (Briggs 48), Fuller (Sherwood 58)

minutes after the restart, as Merstham extended their lead. Gordon waltzed through the stationary Ashford defence, who were waiting for an off-side flag and the forward calmly rounded the goalkeeper to score.

Town's fortunes went from bad to worse minutes later as a mistake from Mason allowed Merstham to score a third, which ultimately wrapped the three points for the home side. Mason misjudged a cross and the ball landed on the head of Dan Bennett, who made no mistake with his finish.

The visitors regrouped and surged forward in order to get back into the game, but Ashford were forced to rue their lack of cutting edge in the final third.

To rub salt into the wounds, Ashford conceded a fourth goal in the 88th minute courtesy of another mistake from Mason, who let a John Hamsher cross slip through his fingers and into the net.

The result means Ashford occupy a spot in the relegation zone and are just one point from safety.

FOOTBALL



MAN FOR THE JOB: Ashford manager Steve Lovell

Lovell will take us where we want to be, says chairman

ASHFORD Town chairman Don Crosbie is backing manager Steve Lovell to turn the club's fortunes around after a disappointing start to the new Ryman South season.

Lovell's side have struggled so far this season with just one league win from eight games and only five points to their name. The Ashford boss has had to build virtually a new squad following the club's uncertain future in pre-season, which meant he lost the majority of his side during the summer.

Despite Ashford occupying a place in the relegation zone, Crosbie insists the club will not be relegated and manager Lovell will guide Town to a solid finish.

He told Yourashford: "We have been unlucky this season. At times we have played some good football and we are close to really starting to move things forward."

Confident

"This year we are rebuilding and consolidation is the aim. I know fans will be frustrated at the moment, but Steve has been in the game long enough and I'm confident he will get this club where we should be. We won't be relegated, that is for sure."

"We have had to blood some youngsters and they will take time to settle. We are not throwing in the towel this year and we want to achieve the highest position possible. We have got players to come back from injury which will help."

Crosbie also revealed the club are close to bringing in three new faces in a bid to halt their slump in the league.

He said: "We have a good chance of bringing in a new goalkeeper for our next game and I have given Steve my backing to have a look at bringing in a central defender and a midfielder. I hope we will have a few new faces to add to our squad soon."

LEAGUE TABLE

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

| | P | W | D | L | Gd | Pt |
|------------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|----|
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| 2 Merstham | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | +3 | 19 |
| 3 Folkestone Invicta | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | +6 | 17 |
| 4 Croydon Athletic | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | +15 | 14 |
| 5 Chatham Town | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | -1 | 13 |
| 6 Corinthian-Casuals | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | +4 | 12 |
| 7 Walton & Hersham | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | +4 | 12 |
| 8 Worthing | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | +2 | 12 |
| 9 Fleet Town | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | +5 | 11 |
| 10 Dulwich Hamlet | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | +1 | 11 |
| 11 Metropolitan Police | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | +2 | 10 |
| 12 Burgess Hill Town | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | -1 | 10 |
| 13 Walton Casuals | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 9 |
| 14 Whyteleafe | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | -1 | 9 |
| 15 Ramsgate | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | -2 | 9 |
| 16 Leatherhead | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| 17 Sittingbourne | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| 18 Eastbourne Town | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | -4 | 6 |
| 19 Horsham YMCA | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | -7 | 6 |
| 20 Whitstable Town | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | -9 | 6 |
| 21 Ashford Town | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | -17 | 5 |
| 22 Chipstead | 8 | 0 | 4 | 4 | -9 | 4 |



TEAM EFFORT: Ashford didn't let blustery conditions put them off in the RFU Junior Vase tie against Rye

Strong winds fail to blow Ashford off course in trophy

RUGBY

Rye 12 Ashford 16

TOUGH windy conditions failed to derail Ashford as they booked their place in the next round of the RFU Junior Vase with a win at Rye.

Dai Fussell rested several players for the trip and selected a number of young players to get a taste of first-team rugby.

Despite a forward pack made up of under-19 players, Ashford made a positive start and opened the scoring after just three minutes following JJ Murray's successful penalty attempt. Four minutes later Ashford increased their lead with the first try of the game scored by Dan Brown.

However, with the wind against Rye, the hosts fought back and scored a try against the run of play to cut the visitors' lead to a single point.

Rye's revival was short-lived as Ashford ended the half with a nine-point lead courtesy of a penalty from Murray and a try by Chris Baker.

The second half left Ashford to deal with the wind against them and Rye duly took advantage. The visitors' defence held firm until the 73rd minute when a mistake from a line-out allowed Rye to score their second try of the afternoon.

Ashford held onto their lead for the remaining seven minutes to book their place in the next round of the competition.

Their return to Kent 1 action this Saturday with Vigo the visitors at Kinney's Field.

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PANTO LEGEND:
Marlowe favourite Dave Lee will be playing Tinkerbell

New venue's a top-flight arena

WITH the closure of the Marlowe for redevelopment, this year's pantomime is being staged in a state-of-the-art big top theatre tent.

It will be called the Marlowe Theatre Arena – but what, exactly, is it?

Rob Haworth is project manager for Theatre Tent, the company behind the venue, which will be at the former Kingsmead coach park.

He is keen to dispel myths about cold, circus-style structures in garish colours.

He said: "While the structure has its roots in tradition, what we use now are more correctly called 'tensile structures' and while the structure is temporary, the Marlowe Theatre Arena will be perfectly heated, have comfortable seats and more toilets than the old theatre."

The arena will provide nearly 30,000 sq ft of space, which will be used to house the audience areas, bar and refreshment stands and, of course, the entire pantomime production.



BIG STAGE: The arena is nearly 30,000 sq ft

It will be dark blue in colour, 198ft-long, 148ft-wide and 56ft-high.

"Audience-goers should be under no illusion," Rob said. "This isn't a watered-down version of the Canterbury panto just because it's in a tent – far from it, the sets still move, Peter will still fly and producers Paul and Emily are using every item in their panto toolbox to make this

the most memorable Marlowe panto ever."

Although the producers and Theatre Tent have been working on the project for more than a year, remarkably, the arena will only take a couple of days to build. Starting with an empty coach park, the main support beams are raised on motors, then the roof is lifted and the walls added. Next, the technical teams will add all of the lighting and sound equipment as well as the specialist equipment that allows Peter to fly.

Theatre Tent technical production manager Andy Barlett said: "Once that's done, we add the seating, put the flooring down and lay the carpet. With more than 1200 seats and 12,000 sq ft of carpet, we'll have our work cut out!"

For more details about the Marlowe Theatre Arena and the pantomime in general, visit www.marlowepeterpan.co.uk.

To book tickets visit www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk or call the box office on 01227 787787.

Sunshine smile keeps family tradition



FAMILY: Paul, Freddie, Emily and Poppy

AT the age of just four weeks, Poppy Sunshine Hendy already had a production under her nappy.

The talented tot was filmed as baby Cinderella and the footage will be used in this year's Guildford pantomime.

It won't come as a surprise though when you consider her heritage: mum Emily and dad Paul are panto producers!

Better known as Evolution Productions, Emily and Paul are the force behind the Marlowe's panto (they met at the Marlowe during Beauty and the Beast in 1997) and four more across the country.

Emily was born and brought up in Deal. She went into film production and worked across the world before returning to Kent to work for the family business.

In 2004, she began producing with Paul, who is something of a panto veteran. He has appeared in more than 20 pantos, directed about as many and written more than 30 scripts.

He is also an established writer and has two novels to his name.

Paul is once again writing, directing and pro-

ducing all five Evolution productions, including, of course, Peter Pan.

Emily, Paul, Poppy (now nine weeks) and four-year-old Freddie live in Eastry. Freddie is no stranger to the stage, either – like Poppy, he was filmed at the age of four weeks, as baby Cinderella.

Paul admitted that having a young family and a huge workload is pretty exhausting for him and Emily.

He said: "This is always a particularly busy time for us and this year we also have to think about the Marlowe Theatre Arena. We aren't getting a lot of sleep at the moment but keep going because we are so excited by the prospects ahead and we really want to make it happen. Canterbury, in particular, is such a big show and will be so spectacular, so we know it will be worth it."

Amazingly, the family connection doesn't stop there: Emily's mum Helga Wood is the set designer and costume supervisor for the pantos, sister Dorcas Wood will be the company manager at Canterbury, and brother George Wood is the man behind the Festive Film season, also at the Marlowe Theatre Arena.

Your chance to 'Hook' up with the cast

COMEDIAN Ade Edmondson (Captain Hook) is joined in Peter Pan by Kent comic Dave Lee who, for his fourteenth Marlowe panto, will play Tinkerbell.

Also making a welcome return to Canterbury will be Ben Roddy, who was such a hit as Herman the Henchman in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Steven Butler will play Peter Pan, while Gemma Sutton has been cast as Wendy. Both have West End, regional theatre and TV credits to their name.

And, if you fancy an ice cream with Ade or a drink with Dave, then read on!

One lucky KOS reader and three guests can win tickets to see Peter Pan and meet the cast at an exclusive after-show party.

The performance – at 7.30pm on Wednesday, December 9 – is when press and dignitaries get to see the pantomime.

And when the curtain goes down, everyone enjoys a drink and chat with the stars, who are more than happy to sign autographs and pose for pictures.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Peter Pan Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is October 30, 2009.

QUESTION: Who is playing Captain Hook in this year's pantomime at the Marlowe theatre?

No purchase necessary

For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073.

• If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



Experience the Marlowe Theatre Arena first with these sensational shows.



Jane McDonald

The star of 'Loose Women'
live in concert
Tuesday 24 November
7.30pm



Stephen K Amos

Award-winning comic
as seen on
'Mock The Week' and
'Have I Got News For You'
Thursday 26 November
7.30pm



ABBA Gold & Bee Gees UK

Friday 27 November
7.30pm



An Evening with Rick Wakeman

and Guests
Saturday 28 November
7.30pm



Hayley Westenra

In Concert
Sunday 29 November
7.30pm



Grumpy Old Women Chin Up Britain

Starring
Jenny Eclair,
Wendi Peters
and
Susie Blake
Monday 7 December
7.30pm



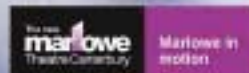
Roy G Hemming's Motown On Tour

Featuring Live on Stage
The classic hits of Four Tops,
Temptations, Supremes & more
Monday 14 December
7.30pm



Elvis At Christmas

Starring
World Champion
Elvis Tribute Artist,
Lee 'Memphis' King
Friday 18 December
7.30pm



Box Office 01227 787 787

(box fee applies)

www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk